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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

DUE TO 2,800 DELAYED CW RENEWALS

Some businesses close indefinitely

By DAISY DEMAPAN
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REPORTER

It was a somber New Year for some businesses after they were forced to close shop due to delayed renewals of Commonwealth-only worker permits after many expired on New Year's Eve.

Saipan's only Vietnamese restaurant, Truong's, a popular mainstay among tourists and locals, was dark and deserted over the weekend.

Saipan Tribune learned that Truong's closed on New Year's Day and distributed its remaining workers to Tony Roma's and Capricciosa,

See SOME on Page 4

DAISY DEMAPAN

Truong's closed on New Year's Day and distributed its remaining workers to Tony Roma's and Capricciosa, which are all restaurants under Triple J Enterprises. Its reopening remains indefinite due to nine critical employees affected by delayed CW permit renewals.

Inos' body arrives Jan. 8

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The body of the late governor Eloy S. Inos will arrive on Saturday at 3:30pm on a Delta Air Line flight, even as the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has targeted a Sunday or Monday state funeral for Inos, who died from complications from diabetes last Dec. 29.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco also said Thursday that the Torres administration will be holding a planning meeting at 10:30am today, Monday, on the logistics of the state funeral. Security details would be internally coordinated with the Department of Public Safety, and a meeting on this is also planned for 9:30am this morning, officials said.

Torres will also not be flying off-island to accompany Inos' body, as earlier reported, officials said Thursday.

Blanco said they are working

See INOS on Page 4

Baby Alvin is NMI's New Year baby

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Estradas of San Jose, Tinian, welcomed their newest family member, baby Alvin, last Friday. Alvin is the CNMI's 2016 New Year baby as he was first to be born in the Commonwealth this year at 7:41am last Jan. 1.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Estrada family's unexpected blessing came early this year when they welcomed 2016 with a bouncing baby boy.

After 10 grueling hours of labor, the 7.4-lb healthy baby was born at 7:41am on Jan. 1, to couple Joseph and Lorielyn Estrada from San Jose, Tinian.

Despite labor pains starting around 9pm on Dec. 31, Lorielyn said they were still able to ring in the New Year with the whole family.

"We watched the fireworks

See BABY on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The American President Lines' newest vessel makes its first port of call on Saipan.

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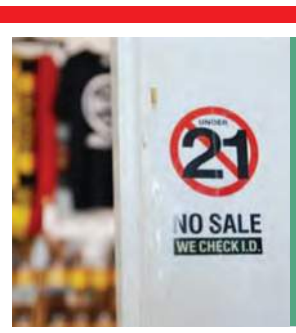

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hawaii raises the legal smoking to age 21 starting on Jan. 1.

» PAGE 19

LIFE & STYLE

For fans of George R.R. Martin, winter is not coming—at least not right away.

» PAGE 21

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

KHS's Staffler is teachers' karaoke champ

Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler was a special guest at the KKMP radio station last Thursday where she was presented with her award and prize as the winner of the Teachers' Karaoke Competition held last December.

Staffler sang Cece Peniston's 1991 hit *Finally* live on radio.

KKMP and other organizers of this year's Christmas in the Marianas presented certificates and cash prizes that day to those who weren't able to attend the awarding ceremony last month.

Prior to being its principal, Staffler was a teacher at KHS since 2001. She also once placed second in a singing competition held at Tinian Dynasty and Casino.

Staffler said she used to sing in open mike bars with friends while studying at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

"I did not have any neighbors where I live on the hills, so I sing like I'm in an opera. My only audience were the dogs and chickens," Staffler said.

She said her biggest influence was her mom who enjoys singing karaoke.

"I wish I took formal music classes while in college or studied in a conservatory. Music is my passion," she said.

Staffler is already anticipating next year's Teacher's Karaoke competition, not because she will be joining again but because she gets to sit as one of its judges.

"Next year I will be judging the contest since the champion will sit as one of the judges according to the rules. I will get to see who steps up next year. Expect to see awesome talent," Staffler said. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

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www.facebook/clubcsaipan

AG pushes consolidated legal services for CNMI agencies

Attorney General Edward Manibusan extended Thursday his support as chief legal officer of the Commonwealth to the new administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, writing to the CNMI chief executive of his goal to centralize and consolidate all legal services for autonomous agencies and public corporations.

"This is mandated by our Constitution," said Manibusan, who asked for their support and a meeting to discuss the matter.

To accomplish this constitutional responsibility, the Office of the Attorney General "must require each autonomous agency and public corporation and to some extent executive departments to share the cost for legal services," Manibusan wrote. He said the OAG does not have adequate funds to operate—a situation similar to an "unfunded liability" where the OAG is mandated to perform without being provided sufficient funds to comply with that mandate.

Manibusan believes autonomous agencies and public corporations have sufficient funding in their budget to pay for legal services, and these agencies would realize substantial savings if the OAG were to serve as legal counsel rather than retaining the services of private counsel.

The consolidation and centralization of legal services, Manibusan said, will achieve several key points: the Commonwealth will maintain consistent policy on legal issues: it will result in the efficient use of the Commonwealth's resources; it would reduce conflicts between agencies; and it would allow assistant AGs to be in constant contact and would provide better procedures for legal work.

"…It will also place an obligation on assistant AGs to provide independent and objective advice which could be jeopardized when agencies hire their own counsel without my approval," addd Manibusan.

"We began the process of consolidation with [then] governor [Eloy] Inos earlier in the year," Manibusan said. "We have made some progress in integrating the OAG's legal services with several agencies, but will need further discussion and collaboration."

He adds that the OAG has a firm foundation for accomplishing this process, and that the support cooperation of the independent and autonomous agencies is necessary to achieve this consolidated effort. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Docomo unresponsive to CUC's inquiries

According to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors, Docomo has been unresponsive to CUC's letters to revisit their memorandum of understanding in terms of the maintenance of cable lines.

Board member Joe Torres brought the issue to the table, with legal counsel James Sirok stating that he does not recall a response from Docomo to date.

Torres said the board has already sent Docomo two letters but no response has been made.

"I think we really should demand now for Docomo to come in and sit with us because as we can see, their lines affect our distribution system when it comes down to it," he said.

Torres noted that the contract has never been adjusted to address recent rate changes.

"If I recall, the rental rate was never raised for the last 15 years. We have to revisit that as something to improve in our MOU agreement," he said.

Sirok expressed that the MOU agreement is not an automatic renewal, but the current contract mirrored the last contract and Docomo has no responsibility for maintenance.

Torres lamented, "I just want to make sure there's no issue of vegetation that reaches the secondary lines of distribution…who is responsible for that? They're using a lighter cable but the vines still carry weight," he said. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

Tourism Topics

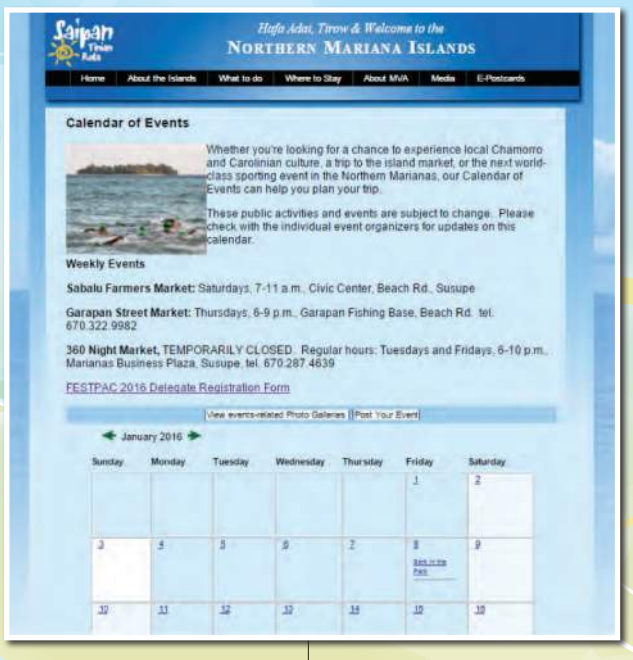
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

Happy New Year!

Looking forward to a special event this year? If it's open to the public, why not publicize it on the new on-line Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) **Community Events Calendar**?

Finally, we have a Community Events Calendar that is a one-stop calendar for visitors and residents looking to find out what's happening in the islands, either free or paid. Fundraisers, festivals, productions, sports tournaments, and all kinds of community events are posted here.


Hafa Adai, Tirow & Welcome to the
Northern Mariana Islands
Home
About the Islands
What to do
Where to Stay
About MVA
Media
E-Postcards
Calendar of Events
Whether you're looking for a chance to experience local Chamorro and Carolinian culture, a trip to the island market, or the next world-class sporting event in the Northern Marianas, our Calendar of Events can help you plan your trip.
These public activities and events are subject to change. Please check with the individual event organizers for updates on this calendar.
Weekly Events
Sabalu Farmers Market: Saturdays, 7-11 a.m., Civic Center, Beach Rd., Susupe
Garapan Street Market: Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., Garapan Fishing Base, Beach Rd. tel. 670.322.9982
360 Night Market, TEMPORARILY CLOSED. Regular hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 6-10 p.m., Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, tel. 670.287.4639
FESTPAC 2016 Delegate Registration Form
January 2016
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Even better, the MVA will also help publicize your calendared event to thousands of our followers on- and off-island through **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and more. Check out this Friday's **Bark in the Park** outdoor moving screening at American Memorial Park. The more, the merrier!

To post your event, just visit www.mymarianas.com and click on the Events Calendar link on the home page.

Saipan Tinian Rota

Hafa Adai & Tirow Way

Statement of condolences

From President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama

"Michelle and I offer our condolences on the passing of Governor Eloy Songao Inos. Governor Inos was a tireless advocate for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people. We offer our gratitude for his service, and our thoughts and prayers for those who loved him."

From Interior Assistant Secretary Kia'aina

WASHINGTON, D.C. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina released the following statement on the passing of Governor Eloy Songao Inos: "I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Governor Inos. My prayers are with his family and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Department of the Interior remains steadfast in supporting Governor Inos' efforts to improve and to strengthen the relationship between the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. I look forward to honoring his legacy with Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor Borja Hocog at the helm. I am fully confident in their leadership and continuity during this critical time."

From Rear Adm. Bolivar

ASAN, Guam—The following statement is by Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, Commander, Joint Region Marianas, regarding the tragic passing of Governor Eloy Inos: "On behalf of Team Joint Region Marianas, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the family, friends and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the loss of a beloved leader. Governor Inos will always be remembered for his dedication to the CNMI and for his friendship to the U.S. military. He will be forever missed."

From the NMI Judiciary

The CNMI Judiciary joins the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of Governor Eloy S. Inos. Throughout his years as a public servant and leader, Governor Inos exemplified an enduring compassion for the Commonwealth and its people. His life's work benefited so many, and his approachable style of leadership will be greatly missed.

"This is a very sad day because we have lost a good friend and leader," Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said. "On behalf of the Judiciary, I extend our heartfelt condolences to Governor Inos' family during this difficult time of grief."

Intermittent water service on Capital Hill

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers served by the Capital Hill reservoir will experience intermittent water service this week as progress continues on the pressure improvement and waterline project.

Beginning at 8am Tuesday, Jan. 5, CUC's contractor, MPC Inc., will install a new bypass system at the Capital Hill tank site to improve system pressure and provide a more reliable water system. This phase of the project requires workers to completely drain the tank to install a new valve system; however, the current tank bypass system will be activated to allow customers to receive water.

Some areas of the Capital Hill service area will experience low pressure to intermittent water service. Once the new valve system is in place, CUC Operations personnel will secure the valve to allow water levels inside of the tank to recover overnight. Water service will be restored 6am Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Affected areas include the 1200 and 1300 blocks, Wireless, Chalan Talafofo, Papago Village, East Isa Dr. from Sarah Market to Mobil Gas Station. ***(CUC)***

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Fire hits Park's law office, store

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause broke out at a store and the adjacent law office of immigration lawyer Mun Su Park at a one-story commercial building on Beach Road, Quarter Master on Saturday morning.

No one was reported injured in the blaze, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday.

Gersonde said smoke and heat damage were found on the northern part of the building, which were occupied by the Law Office of Park and Plumeria Store II.

Fire investigators determined that the blaze originated from the Plumeria Store II.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call from Department of Public Safety 911 dispatch on Saturday at 7:15am about a fire at a building on Beach Road, Quarter Master, where the Park's Law Office is located.

Gersonde said firefighters and medics from the Susupe and Garapan fire stations responded to the location.

Firefighters placed the fire under control at 8:39am.

Firefighters prevented the blaze from transferring to other businesses in the same building.

It is the first fire incident in the CNMI this year.

Last Dec. 21, a fire of unknown cause engulfed an abandoned semi-concrete one-story house near Saipan Southern High School along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville.

Last Dec. 4, fire broke out at a barbecue stand in San Vicente and investigators determined that the cause was electrical. The barbecue stand sustained minor damage.

Due to the thick smoke, firefighters wear masks to enter the door in one of the two units of a commercial building located along Beach Road, Quarter Master during the fire on Saturday morning. No one was injured in the blaze.
DEREK GERSONDE

DPL comments on Mariana Resort/Best Sunshine assignment lease

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has read the co-assignment of the Marianas Resort and Spa's public land lease to Best Sunshine International, Ltd. and has asked them to meet some conditions pursuant to Kan Pacific's lease agreement with the government, according to DPL Secretary Pete A. Tenorio last week.

"…And if those are met there is no reason why DPL would not approve the assignment," Tenorio added.

Tenorio said DPL has the right, for example, to enter the property to studies like appraisal for the upcoming RFP, when asked to name some of these conditions.

"The bottom line is we wanted to make sure that whatever business gross revenue that they collected would be accounted as a business gross revenue for the purposes of computing the rental—based on the gross receipt. There is nothing in the provision that will share their capital gain with DPL, because it's not in the agreement. So the other aspect of getting revenue for DPL is to apply the gross and…how much the total assignment fee" is at "about $3.5 million. So that will be counted as a business gross receipt," he said.

On the request for proposal process for these lands, Tenorio said they are still waiting for responses. "There have been a number of inquiries into my office…How many will respond? I don't know. That remains to be seen."

On a contractor for public land use plan, Tenorio said they have recommended one bid to the Division of Procurement & Supply that they considered "most responsive."

"…Because the pricing, the amount of fee they are proposing, is within our budget. The others are way sky high."

"It's an off-island group," he added.

Tenorio hopes to know more about the bid selection around January or February. "I am rushing to get it going because we have initiated the establishment of an advisory board and one of the functions of the land advisory board is to be engaged in the establishment and conduct of the land use plan."

He added they are waiting for the last nominee from the Office of the Governor before constituting the advisory board group.

INOS

From Page 1

on the arrangements, which include preparations for off-island dignitaries.

On Wednesday afternoon, the administration also put online a website for Inos' funeral information at govinosmemorial.wix.com/tribute. The website includes hotel room reservation and car rental information for those traveling from abroad to attend Inos' funeral.

Officials also provided a brief biography of Inos, who passed away on Dec. 29 in Seattle, Washington, on the website.

Inos worked more than three decades in public service for the people Northern Mariana Islands, the biography states. Inos began his public service career as Tax Manager for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands' Revenue Division and quickly moved up to hold the position of Secretary of Finance—a position he occupied under three different administrations.

"With his passion and talent for the field of finance, he was known for detail and precision and had the unique aptitude and ability to understand complex calculations quickly and accurately, making sense of facts that would ordinarily be viewed as meaningless numbers.

"He was dubbed by many as meticulous, a mathematician, the numbers guy, but always humble and kind and a true statesmen in every sense of the word. Governor Inos faithfully served his people in the position of governor of the Commonwealth from 2013 to 2015—a relatively short time—yet exerting perhaps the greatest impact in reviving a severely depressed economy, saving the Retirement Fund—and most importantly inspiring hope and a spirit of renewal for his people."

"…Despite serious challenges to his health, Governor Inos never gave in to illness and proudly served all the people of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Between his years of public service, Inos also worked for many years in the private sector as a former vice president of the Tan Holdings Corp., one of the largest business conglomerates in the Northern Mariana Islands and the region. Inos was elected and served in the First Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, including a term as Council Chairman from 1990 until 1992. He attended Mount Carmel High School on Saipan, graduating in May 1967. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Accounting (cum laude) from the University of Guam in May 1981. He also focused his studies on Business Administration while attending the University of Guam.

BABY

From Page 1

around the island from here," Lorielyn said.

The baby, the second male to be born in the family, was given the name Alvin by his older brother, Luis John.

"I like the name Alvin," 7-year-old LJ said, who, according to his parents, was extremely excited to welcome his younger sibling to the world and have a new playmate.

According to Lorielyn, she didn't expect to deliver the baby on the first day of the New Year.

"His due date was Jan. 3," Lorielyn said.

"He was only 39 weeks and five days," Joseph added.

"I knew he was going to be delivered on New Year," grandmother Sonya chimed in.

The family said they didn't expect to have another baby in the family but Alvin is a very welcome blessing.

"He is an unexpected blessing," Lorielyn said.

Alvin is supposed to be the third child of the Estradas but they experienced the loss of their baby girl when she suffered umbilical cord prolapse during her birth four years ago.

As has become tradition, MarPac gave gifts to this year's New Year baby.

The MarPac Consumer Department with Frank Mettao, Bradley Babauta, Shirley Santos, and Michelle Villacrusis surprised the Estrada family with a visit and showered baby Alvin and his mother with gifts.

MarPac gave boxes of Huggies diapers, Huggies baby wipes, a Mead Johnson bag, Enfamil formula, Kotex and a Go Green bag.

"We are thankful to MarPac," Lorielyn said.

"Thank you very much for giving us these blessings," Joseph added.

The family was discharged from the hospital yesterday but will be returning to Tinian next week.

Both parents work at the Tinian Dynasty & Casino as part of its food and beverage department and, although times are hard for them in terms of their company right now, Lorielyn noted that it was really good for them that they were able to save.

"Even before I was pregnant we were really saving up," Lorielyn said.

According to Liza Anda, a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center obstetrics unit, one more couple welcomed a new baby on Jan. 1 at around 2pm.

She also noted that there were many babies that were born on Dec. 31 compared to the New Year babies.

SOME

From Page 1

which are all restaurants under Triple J Enterprises.

Capricciosa manager Lotty Hipolito stated that there are no updates as to when Truong's will reopen. A notice outside the Truong's restaurant posted by management states that Truong's will be closed indefinitely.

Hipolito said that Truong's employees who weren't affected by the delayed renewals were given some hours at Tony Roma's and Capricciosa, as decided by upper management.

She noted that about nine employees were affected. Of the nine, their cooks, chef, general manager, and dine-in supervisors were unable to work because of the delayed permit renewals.

She said, however, that Tony Roma's and Capricciosa are still operating on regular hours.

Saipan Tribune also received reports that major hotels were affected, as well as one of the island's major wholesale distributors, Luen Fung Enterprises, which reportedly shut down operations until such time that their employees get their CW renewals. *Saipan Tribune* attempted several times over the weekend to get further details on their situation but was unable to do so due to the New Year's Eve festivities.

Pizza Hut also had to ask one its managers in Guam to come to Saipan to help out as the restaurant's CW workers are also facing a delay in the release of their work permits.

Foreign workers whose CW-1 permits have yet to be renewed are required to stop working upon the expiration of their current permits.

According to the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has responded to my calls for action on delayed renewals of Commonwealth-only worker permits by moving CW applications submitted over 90 days ago for permits that expire this week to the front of the line for processing—about 800 in all. Extra [USCIS] staff have also been added to clear the backlog of CW applications."

Sablan noted that USCIS expects to act on these 800 CW petitions by the end of this week.

He said another 2,000 applications that were not submitted before the recommended 90 days will also receive the extra staff attention.

"I urge employers with applications that are more than 90 days old to contact the congressional office. I also recommend that employers submit applications for renewals as early as possible—they may do so up to 180 days prior to expiration," he said, to mitigate the situation in the future.

Last week, immigration attorneys Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara, during their presentation for the Society for Human Resource Management, stated that the only thing employers can do for late CW-1 renewals is to have them stop working on their permit expiration date. After this time, workers will have a 120-day period to wait for renewal without leaving the CNMI.

They state that this 120-day period is considered lawful presence so long as the employee waiting to be renewed has been lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S., has filed a non-frivolous application for a change or extension of status before the date of expiration of authorized stay, and has not been employed without authorization before or during the pendency of such application.

Both attorneys said that whether retroactivity will also be considered is unknown but that it is "unfair not to include pending applications," noting that USCIS has the power to provide relief.

In addition to this, they recommended to hiring managers to consider better alternatives to the CW permit during the transition process such as auditing the workforce to change visa categories, considering loan programs for family based immigrants, and training and hiring U.S.-qualified workers.

Pickup truck collides with police car, another car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A pickup truck being driven by an alleged intoxicated man sideswiped a car before colliding with a police vehicle along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Gualo Rai last week.

No one was injured, according to Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong.

Donald Crisostomo, 26, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room by medics, but was released later because he had no injuries. He was then arrested for driving under the influence and reckless driving.

Police traffic investigators determined that Crisostomo caused the crash that happened in front of EZ Market in Gualo Rai last Dec. 28 at 8pm.

Police investigation showed that a blue Toyota Echo four-door sedan being driven by a 48-year-old man had stopped on the southbound inner lane to make a left turn into Espana Street.

An orange 1997 Nissan pickup truck being driven by Crisostomo was traveling behind and sideswiped the Toyota Echo. The truck then encroached onto the opposite lane and collided with the police vehicle—a white 2008 Chevy Trail Blazer. The police vehicle at that time was traveling on the northbound inner lane.

Responding traffic investigators interviewed witnesses and the drivers of the three vehicles involved.

Investigators said the weather condition at that time was clear, the road surface was dry, and the lighting in the area was dark.

PDM Promoters hauls 10,880 lbs of trash in 2015

PDM Promoters Inc., a nonprofit group that cleans up and beautifies the Garapan tourist district, collected 10,880 lbs of trash in 2015.

According to PDM coordinator Sonia Siwa, they collected 1,520 lbs of trash in January, 1,540 lbs in February, 1,560 lbs in March, 500 lbs in April, 1,360 lbs in May, 1,320 lbs in June, 1,160 lbs in July, 860 lbs in November, and 1,060 lbs in December.

Siwa said that August, September, and October were months of typhoon recovery, during which they were not able to perform cleanups.

Despite the rain during their first cleanup of the year and Typhoon Soudelor in the middle of the year, the group pushed through collecting vegetation blocking the drainage systems, hundreds of cigarette butts, and pounds and pounds of beer bottles and cans.

If you'd like to participate in the cleanups this year, contact PDM Promoters Inc. at 234-6900. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

Las Vegas Night golden tickets still available

The New Year has rolled in and the Rotary Club of Saipan has set up the distribution of "golden tickets" to Rotarians in preparation for Las Vegas Night set for Jan. 9 from 6pm to midnight at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Tickets are now on sale at $5 apiece or $20 per booklet.

The night features $500 in cash and door prizes and the popular $10,000 in cash or a 2016 Mazda 3 Sport option.

According to Tom Thornburgh, a total of 74 bundles have gone out so far.

Each bundle is a total of 20 packets with five tickets each worth $5. However, you can get the fifth golden ticket in a booklet free if you buy a booklet for $20.

"As far as the actual number of tickets, we have given out to the Rotarians a total of 7,400 tickets. Each Rotarian is obligated to sell all $400 worth...I am collecting stubs and money as they come in…" Thornburgh said.

Contact any Rotarian to get your golden tickets or stop by the Royal Taga Ballroom door on Jan. 9. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

Cops recover stolen purse

A Japanese couple walked into the DPS Koban Bike Patrol substation in Garapan on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015, at about 6:30pm, to report a theft incident. One of the victims, a Japanese female age 47, was in tears. The couple was scheduled to depart Saipan at midnight. The victim's purse containing the couple's passports and money was taken at Micro Beach.

Bike Patrol supervisor Sandy Hambros and Nick Rabauliman immediately went to Micro Beach to search for the purse while police officer Jason Bahillo took care of the victims' police report. Police learned the couple was at the beach taking pictures of the sunset and had left their bag on the sand for about five minutes.

Hambros and Rabauliman recovered the purse by the Micro Beach parking lot near the pavilion. The victims' passports were still in the purse but $200 cash was missing.

DPS Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero would like to remind the public and tourists to be aware of their surroundings and not leave valuable items unattended. Guerrero lauded the police officers and detectives involved in aiding the victims and reaffirmed his support for the Tourist Oriented Policing Section program in keeping the community and tourists safe. ***(DPS)***

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

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Marianas Eye Institute
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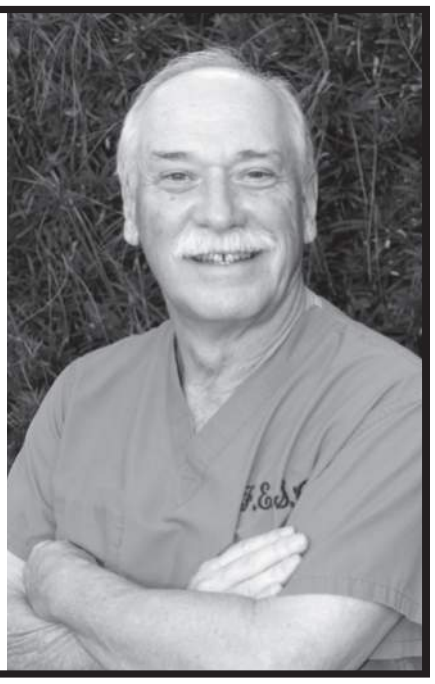

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APL Guam makes maiden voyage to Saipan, Guam

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

APL Guam Express made its first port of call on Saipan last Thursday as part of its maiden voyage. The U.S.-flagged ship will have a Yokohama-Guam-Saipan-Busan service route.

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American President Lines' newest service, *Guam Express*, made its first port of call on Saipan last Thursday.

The U.S.-flagged ship headed out for Guam on Friday after welcoming the New Year in the CNMI.

APL Guam's maiden voyage was delayed as APL earlier targeted it to arrive on Saipan last November.

"There was a delay of about a month," APL general manager for Guam and Micronesia John Selleck said.

Selleck said there were requirements that they had to meet to ensure the safety of the crew and the whole ship.

APL Guam was dry-docked in China and was converted in order to be under U.S. flagship.

The ship has a capacity of 1,000 TEUs or twenty-foot equivalent units, which mean it can carry 1,000 20-foot containers or 550 40-foot containers. It can also carry 200 refrigerated containers.

According to Selleck, there are changes in the route as well as in the schedule of *APL Guam*.

The Yokohama-Saipan-Guam route that APL earlier announced will now include Busan, South Korea.

Selleck said the ship will be in Yokohama on Tuesdays, Guam on Saturdays, Saipan on Sundays, and Busan on Thursdays.

APL Guam will be in Guam again on Jan. 9 and on Saipan on Jan. 10.

Selleck said that APL will be making up for the delayed shipments its customers experienced.

"We're grateful for our customers that stuck with us. We want to make it up to them and we're making special arrangements for those customers. They took a risk with us and we really appreciate that," Selleck said

He said they expect to have more support in the future now that they had their maiden voyage. He added that a second ship to service the CNMI is still being looked at.

OAG clarifies rules of succession

The Office of the Attorney General issued a statement Wednesday last week clarifying the rules of succession to the Office of the Governor.

Saying he is deeply saddened by the passing of Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Attorney General Edward Manibusan said, "It is with a deep sense of regret that the Office of the Attorney General feels that it is necessary to provide an explanation for the law of succession to the governorship."

"After carefully reviewing Article III, Section 7 of the Constitution, my office has concluded that no special election is required," Manibusan said.

He said the Constitution requires a special election only if the individual assuming office is assuming the office of "Acting Governor" or "Acting Lieutenant Governor." An individual will only assume the office of "Acting Governor" or "Acting Lieutenant Governor" if vacancies occur for both the governor and the lieutenant governor at the same time.

"Here, the office being assumed is the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor—not the Office of the Acting Governor or Acting Lieutenant Governor. Therefore, the Commonwealth Constitution does not allow for a special election," Manibusan further explained.

Lt. Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres became the governor upon the death of Inos. Similarly, Senate President Victor B. Hocog is now the lieutenant governor.

"I have spoken with Governor Torres and have informed him that the Office of the Attorney General stands ready to assist him in an orderly transition," Manibusan added.

In his message about the passing of Inos, Manibusan said: "The Commonwealth has lost an extraordinary man who devoted much of his life to public service and to the people of this Commonwealth."

Article III, Section 7 of the Commonwealth Constitution provides for the succession to the Offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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IN AMENDING TINIAN DYNASTY'S BANKRUPTCY PETITION,

HKE liabilities at $273.5M, not $258.5M; assets at $55.2M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has amended its petition for bankruptcy to reflect that its total liabilities is actually $273.5 million, not $258.5 million. Its total assets remain at $55.2 million.

As this developed, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday for permission to pay taxes and fees that may become due while the bankruptcy petition is pending.

HKE estimates it owes the Internal Revenue Service $315,989.69 in withholding taxes and the CNMI government $372,456.96 in taxes, for total tax liabilities of $688,443.65.

In its amended Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition filed last week, HKE, through counsel Timothy H. Bellas, said it owes $194.9 million to creditors who have claims secured by property; $76.32 million to creditors who have unsecured claims; and $2.24 million to creditors who have claims of non priority amount of unsecured claims, for total liabilities of $273,462,659.18.

The amended petition also disclosed that HKE's real property is worth $51.27 million and personal property is $3.94 million, for total assets of $55,213,814.37.

According to the original petition, HKE owes $175.28 million to creditors who have claims secured by property; $76.79 million to creditors who have unsecured claims; and $6.41 million to creditors who have claims of non priority amount of unsecured claims, for total liabilities of $258,482,942.47.

» HKE seeks court permission to pay taxes

In HKE's motion last week, Bellas said only the hotel portion of the business is operational right now, despite Dynasty having paid its gaming license fee until Dec. 31, 2015.

Bellas said the casino remains closed, based in part on the finding by the Tinian Casino Gaming Commission that HKE has not paid all taxes due to the local municipality.

Bellas said the failure to pay taxes and fees would be disruptive to HKE's efforts to continue doing business and to re-organize. He said the payment of taxes does not impair existing assets and therefore is not detrimental to existing creditors.

Bellas earlier disclosed that one of their first priorities will be to ask the bankruptcy court for permission to pay the unpaid salaries of Tinian Dynasty employees and unpaid federal and local taxes.

Among the creditors listed as having priority unsecured claims are the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes of Enforcement Network, which has a total claim of $75 million.

HKE president Chun Wai Chan filed the petition.

According to Chan, the board agreed that it appears prudent and essential to seek the protection of the bankruptcy court in order to have the opportunity to formulate a plan for the rehabilitation of the corporation through reorganization.

Last June, FinCEN assessed the civil penalty of $75 million against HKE for "willful and egregious violations" on the Bank Secrecy Act.

Last July, the federal court dismissed the criminal charges against HKE after the company and the U.S. government entered into a non-prosecution agreement that requires Tinian Dynasty to forfeit $3.04 million—the largest forfeiture ever collected by the U.S. in the CNMI.

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Fed court asked to confirm Fund's status as tax-exempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The trustee of the NMI Settlement Fund and the counsel for Betty Johnson's class action members have filed a joint motion to confirm the Fund's status as a tax-exempt entity.

According to Fund trustee counsel Dean A. Manglona and Johnson's class counsel Robert M. Hatch, the Settlement Fund is a tax exempt entity because the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action expressly provides for the appointment of a "person to act as an officer of the District Court to be the trustee of the Settlement Fund."

Manglona and Hatch said the Settlement Agreement further provides that the trustee of the Settlement Fund has the powers of a federal equity receiver under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 66, and "shall act as the receiver for the Settlement Fund."

As such, the lawyers said, the trustee reports directly to the district court.

The district court, the lawyers said, retained exclusive jurisdiction over all matters relating to the Settlement Fund, including interpretation of the settlement agreement.

Because the trustee is a Rule 66 receiver and the Settlement Fund is an extension of the District Court, the Settlement Fund falls squarely within the government exemption of the NMI Revenue and Taxation Act of 2004, Manglona and Hatch said.

The two filed the joint motion after U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood sought a full briefing on Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang's position that the Settlement Fund is a non-profit, tax exempt entity under CNMI law.

Tang recently asked the court to confirm the non-profit tax exempt status of the Fund, since this issue has delayed the completion of the Fund's fiscal year 2014 audit.

In her order, Tydingco-Gatewood gave the CNMI government until Jan. 5, 2016, to file its response.

The judge set the motion for hearing on Jan. 21, 2016.

The CNMI government argues that the Department of Finance has the authority to determine whether the Settlement Fund is a tax-exempt entity.

In disagreeing with Finance's position, Manglona and Hatch said the district court has exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over all matters arising under the settlement agreement. Because the Settlement Fund is an extension of the district court, the government exemption statute should also apply to the Settlement Fund, they said.

Tang had sought a legal opinion from Attorney General Edward Manibusan on the issue but Manibusan declined to render one, saying the Settlement Fund "does not fall within the scope of representation"—presumably because it is not an NMI government agency.

According to Tang, the audit for the Settlement Fund for fiscal 2014 by Ernst & Young began in January 2015 and has been completed. However, because of a disagreement between the NMI government and the Settlement Fund whether the Settlement Fund is a non-profit, ta-exempt entity, the completion of the audit has been delayed.

Tang said the Settlement Fund's purpose is not to make a profit.

Tang said the tax exemption should equally apply to the Settlement Fund because it is a "creature" of the district court.

Volunteers sought for Sugar Dock cleanup

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Sugar Dock on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, starting at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer your time and help beautify the island, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Sugar Dock area/parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

The Coral Ocean Point beach cleanup was successful with 33 BECQ volunteers participating. Thanks to volunteers from Garapan Elementary School, San Antonio Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Cab Dancers, NAO Marine Inc., Saipan Aqua World Inc., Sea Horse Inc., and other volunteers, over 200 lbs of trash was removed from the area and properly disposed of.

BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

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The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***Friday, March 25, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 25, 2016, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 15, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Supreme Court affirms vehicular negligence case

On Dec. 31, 2015, the Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's judgment finding Hyoun Min Oh negligent in operating her car and the court's denial of her motion for a directed verdict and judgment notwithstanding the jury verdict in *Caiyun Mu v. Hyoun Min Oh*, 2015 MP 18.

In February 2010, Oh hit a pedestrian in the San Antonio area near the Sunleader business establishment, an area that was poorly lit.

A witness, who was a passenger in a southbound vehicle, testified that the northbound vehicle, belonging to Oh, was traveling fast before the accident occurred. Oh disputed this at trial, testifying that she was traveling at a normal speed.

Oh also indicated to Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, who responded to the scene on the night of the accident, that she saw a person who may have been crossing on the right side of the road. Oh testified that her vision was clear and the tint on her car, described by the passenger of the southbound vehicle as dark tint, did not obstruct her vision.

Macaranas characterized the damage to Oh's car as moderate, and noted that when he arrived at the scene, Oh's car was parked 150 feet away from the pedestrian's location. As a result of the accident, the pedestrian sustained severe neurological impairment.

On appeal, Oh asserted the evidence was insufficient to establish she was negligent in operating her car; the trial court erred in denying her motion for a directed verdict and judgment notwithstanding the verdict; the jury erred in failing to find contributory negligence; and she was denied a fair trial because Mu's counsel made improper assertions throughout trial.

The Supreme Court determined the evidence presented at trial was sufficient to support the jury's finding of negligence. Because the evidence and all reasonable inferences support the jury's finding, the trial court did not err in denying the directed verdict and judgment notwithstanding the verdict. The high court also declined to set aside the jury's determination on contributory negligence based on the evidence presented at trial. Finally, the high court concluded Oh received a fair trial despite the alleged impropriety of arguments raised by Mu's counsel.

The Supreme Court's opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

High court vacates convictions, orders new trial

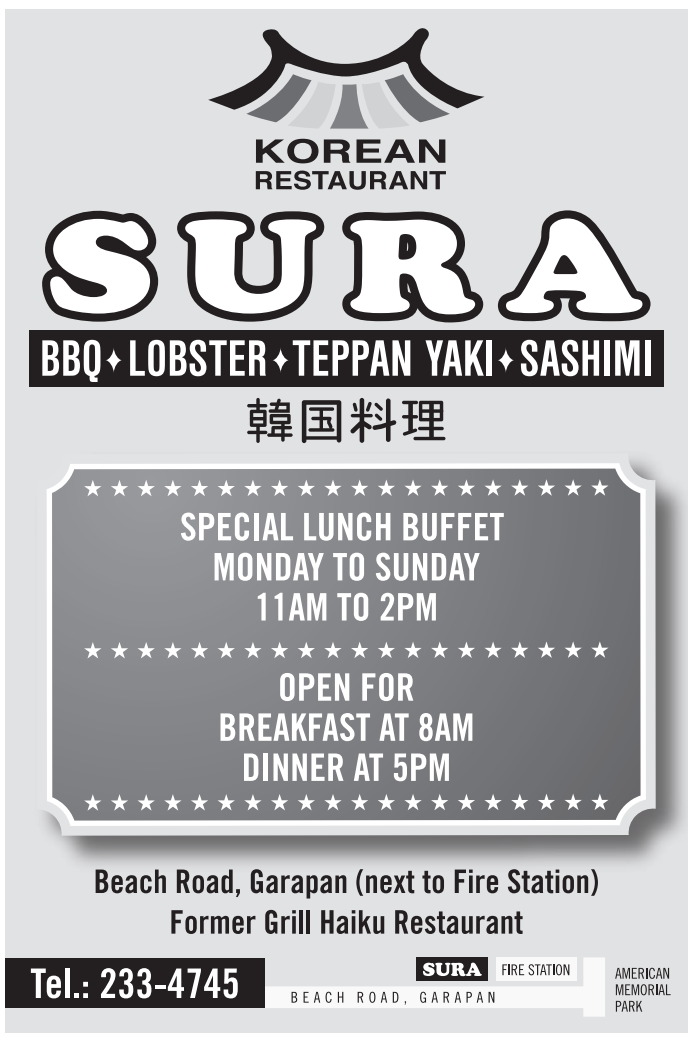
On Dec. 30, 2015, the Supreme Court issued *Commonwealth v. Johnson*, 2015 MP 17, vacating Dan Kalikolehau Johnson's convictions for one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, and assault and battery; as well as two counts of disturbing the peace relating to two alleged incidents in May 2009 and June 2012 for alleged conduct involving Johnson's girlfriend's daughter. Johnson argued, among other things, that the trial court erred by admitting several hearsay statements and by failing to issue a limiting instruction for fresh complaint evidence. Additionally, Johnson argued the cumulative impact of multiple trial errors necessitated reversal.

The Commonwealth charged Johnson with sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace for the alleged conduct in May 2009. Although the minor initially complained to her mother, a police officer, and an individual at the prosecutor's office, at trial the minor denied that Johnson engaged in the alleged conduct. The Commonwealth therefore asked the minor to testify as to the details of her conversations with the three other individuals regarding the incident. Johnson was also charged with attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and disturbing the peace for alleged conduct occurring in June 2012. At trial, the minor's friend and a social worker testified that the minor complained of Johnson's conduct.

The trial court instructed the jury to consider prior inconsistent statements for the truth of the matter asserted in the initial statement as well as for the purposes of assessing the witnesses' credibility. The jury convicted Johnson of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. The trial court convicted him of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace. Johnson was sentenced to serve 10 years in prison and a five-year suspended sentence.

The Supreme Court reversed Johnson's convictions relating to the alleged conduct in May 2009 because the trial court erroneously admitted several hearsay statements for the purpose of proving Johnson's alleged conduct. The trial court's error required reversal because of the overall lack of admissible evidence demonstrating Johnson's conduct, along with the Commonwealth's lengthy references to hearsay testimony during closing argument that highlighted the importance of the testimony to the Commonwealth's case. As to the convictions relating to the June 2012 conduct, the high court concluded reversal was warranted because of the cumulative impact of multiple trial errors. Consequently, the high court vacated Johnson's convictions and ordered a new trial.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***



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EDITORIAL

A watershed apology by Japan for a heinous wartime crime

For Japan, World War II is not resolved history. It is, incredibly, a recurring controversy.

Several times in recent decades, Japan's leaders have expressed remorse and apologized for the nation's rampage through Asia in the 1930s and '40s. But to the governments and the surviving civilian victims in South Korea and elsewhere, the words and actions have always come up short.

Japan has issued mea culpas, yes. But also from Japan: Revisionist textbooks in schools, a Tokyo shrine that memorializes convicted war criminals, an opaque stance by prime ministers on atonement for the war that shifts between "heartfelt apology" and "eternal, sincere condolences."

The unshakable impression is of a nation struggling to accept full responsibility for the past cruelty of its military.

This week the Japanese government tried again, negotiating an apology with South Korea's government that the two sides say is intended to provide closure for a heinous Japanese wartime crime: the enslavement of thousands of women to provide sexual service to the Imperial Army.

If their agreement holds, Japan and South Korea may finally put aside the major source of bitterness preventing two advanced Asian democracies from being true friends. Just 46 South Korean victims are still alive. The deal has angered many of them. A civic group representing the victims said it was "humiliating."

Japan uses the euphemism "comfort women" to describe the victims, but they were sex slaves of the Japanese Imperial Army. Before and during the war, as Japanese troops advanced across Asia, the army tricked or coerced many women and young girls into forced prostitution. Historians say 70,000 to 200,000 women were involved. Many were Korean, though some came from the Philippines, Taiwan and other countries.

The women were seized in their villages or fooled into thinking they'd been hired for far-off factory jobs, only to end up trapped in "comfort stations"—front-line brothels, where they were forced to have sex with dozens of men a day. "They had no personal freedom, were treated with violence and savagery by the soldiers and with indifference by the station operators and army doctors," a 1996 U.N. report stated. Women were beaten, suffered from sexually transmitted diseases and were abandoned or killed by retreating Japanese troops.

For decades, Japan insisted the government was not directly involved in sex slave operations. When it did apologize in 1993, the government declined to contribute to a compensation fund, relying instead on private donations.

In the new agreement, reached by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean Prime Minister Park Geun-hye, Japan does better:

"The issue of comfort women, with an involvement of the Japanese military authorities at that time, was a grave affront to the honor and dignity of large numbers of women, and the government of Japan is painfully aware of responsibilities from this perspective."

As Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Abe expresses anew his most sincere apologies and remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experi-

See EDITORIAL on Next Page

Say you, say me

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

The line is from Lionel Ritchie, an entry into a situation where what is said somewhere is negated elsewhere. Maybe, we need to focus on the function of the cerebellum that balances things a-kilter, to operate out of the "heart" rather than the mind, the senses, and the body politic.

Gov. Eloy Inos was a sickly man when I first met him, along with Ben Fitial. I ran into them in Tokyo transiting on a flight to Saipan from either Honolulu or the mainland. One time, it was even both Ben and Eloy together. Ben is a seasoned "elder" among Carolinians; he played the role well of being the kingpin, respected for his attained status more than the virtue of his political stance. He ran into America›s pretensions at democracy.

The last time I saw Gov. Eloy, it was obvious that his days were numbered. He opened the Agri Fair by the public market across the Kristo Rai church. Maligned by virtue of his support of casino interests in the Commonwealth, he went against the two-time referendum vote that defeated casinos on Saipan, though gambling through the one-armed bandits were already tolerated.

Whether Eloy was corrupt or not is a matter to be legally adjudged; those claiming him to be so had better come up with hard evidence, now that the man «moved upstairs.»

I wrote once that while attending a family gathering in China, the story of two brothers was told, one in government and the other in the private sector. The university town where my school is located was relatively new, the «downtown» being only 30 years old as an urban center. It used to be surrounded by farmlands before the city decided to decongest downtown Shenyang and build a satellite city in Shenbei.

The older brother revealed the government's plans, and the younger brother kept his ears open. He then acquired farms and turned them into sites for apartments and high-rise buildings. A decade later, at a family gathering, the younger brother distributed the traditional red envelopes for the younger relations, and a thick wad for his brother who barely subsisted on a government salary.

In *Meiguo* (the United States), that is a case of corruption; a family member profits from a privileged position. Among the Chinese, the younger brother was just performing common sense, filial devotion and necessary obligation. While he took advantage and prospered from privileged information heard around the dining table, he did so without collusion with the older brother, and he acted swiftly and decisively to be first in line in what proved to be rich gravy.

Yin-yang is the term given by the Orient on this religiously observed balancing act that avoids extreme conflicts, which in the West sees virtue in annihilating an opponent, or in a synthesis of thesis and antithesis, creates something new from remnants of the old. Chinese commerce never sets on the fixed price. The haggle of give-and-take is a given. A foreigner who does not haggle ends up paying more, a frequent occurrence in public markets in Sinosphere.

A two-tiered monetary system abided in China on my first trip in 1989, with the visitors encouraged to shop at the Friendship Store where yuan currency was the medium of exchange. Local markets used *renminbi* (the people's money). While the two tiers no longer apply with one currency standard, the practice continues as department stores fix prices while the street markets are still "haggle-able."

Now, back to our former governor. We are moralistic in judgments of maneuvers, and clearly, the governor, rightly or wrongly, thought it expedient to ride the inevitable and make sure the government coffers—which no longer had the luxury of the former garment industry—had access to funds.

We will be blunt with the casinos. Las Vegas is diversifying. Singapura has integrated resorts, a model of having a casino as a part of a larger "family" resort, albeit tailored to be commercially viable to the moneyed class. *Aomen* (Macau) as a gaming destination is losing revenue as Beijing caps the flow of public funds into its tables. That leaves Manila, Kuala Lumpur, and *Xiang Jiang* (Hong Kong). Manila contends with the Vatican as KL does with Islam, both unfriendly to commercial gambling. HK is in the same boat as Macau. Private interests tried to destabilize the local regime this year so it can move more freely than what Beijing allows but the dance is one step forward, two steps backward, the support from student activism notwithstanding.

Gov. Eloy was vilified for being too cozy with the powers-that-be of the gambling world that play their PR manners well. "Say you, say me" was the administrative tenor in the CNMI that is swiftly turning the isles into the gaming mecca of the Pacific.

Judgment after the fact is futile. We are better off assisting the new Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' options, given that we are a tourist destination, and gambling is the favored game on the table. That, or be Pentagon's "strategic military location."

Roll the dice here, please!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Farewell Governor Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.*

"Why are you leaving now, when things are better?" Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked me when I told him I was leaving Saipan.

"Isn't it good to leave a place that's better than before, rather than leave it at a worse time than before?" I replied.

"That's a good way to put it," he said, at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new tourism-related project at the time.

Inos could have been asked the same question he posed to me, and those who know him well could anticipate his likely response.

So many people have already said almost everything there is to say about Inos after his passing on Dec. 29 after a protracted battle with diabetes—about his achievements and who he was as governor, mentor, family member, friend, colleague, numbers and finance expert, neighbor, islander.

Even U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama's statement described Inos as "a tireless advocate for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people."

But let me share what Inos was as a news source, an interviewee, and a public figure at least to members of the Fourth Estate or at least to the media members who covered him on Capital Hill. We'd be remiss if we fail to pay tribute to that aspect of Inos' life as a public figure. Hopefully, those in public office today and in the future could learn from Inos.

While I didn't agree with all his policies and decisions as a governor, I respect him for "taking the bull by its horns," as he used to say when referring to the tasks at hand, including saving the beleaguered NMI Retirement Fund and taking a decisive action on his vision of what and where the CNMI should be.

Here's a man who was able to deliver what he said he would set out to do, which was to save the pension system and expand the economy, among other things. However, the methods and means have been and will continue to be debated long after this.

Never once did Inos ask me to reveal my news sources no matter how damning the facts or nasty the allegations were, because he knew the boundaries and respected the freedom of the press. I could never say that about his predecessors, or most of those who have held office.

If he didn't have the facts or figures, he would say so and whenever possible, help point inquisitive reporters in the right direction and it was up to that media member to continue digging for information.

Inos knew when a media member was just out on a fishing expedition, only trying to meet a story quota, or was really working on getting an important story out. Inos didn't hide behind the "no comment" excuse when chanced upon and asked about issues.

He won't turn his back or walk as if there's no one around when chanced upon in the hallway or outside the building, but would tell you when he's pressed for time.

Inos was not one who wanted to make news or be in the news for the sake of hearing his voice or seeing his face in paper or on TV, a malaise which has unfortunately afflicted many in public office today and not necessarily because they're seeking re-election. Inos was about sharing newsworthy, public service information, not making news of and about himself.

During and after his unprecedented ascension to power as governor when his predecessor resigned after impeachment over corruption, neglect of duty and felony, Inos interacted with the media in a more open and cordial manner than his predecessors. But that didn't mean unlimited media access, for he was conscious and duty-bound to make sure the information he had was disseminated in its proper context. And that also didn't mean he's insulated from media criticism. He understood that.

When he's invited to speak before groups of people, be it the Rotary Club of Saipan, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, tourism representatives or some other sectors, he could deliver his remarks and make presentations about government finances and other numbers without the aid of prepared speeches or cue cards.

He knew his facts and figures and knew how to present them in an orderly manner before standing up in front of an audience. He would respond to questions about his presentation in a clear, straightforward manner. Inos could easily turn any presentation before a select group into a State of the Commonwealth Address, again without prepared speeches.

In transcribing his remarks or interviews, almost every sentence could be a direct quote—a perk of having a news source who knows his syntax and grammar well.

Everyone who interacted with him learned something from him. And he's one to take lessons from people as well, be it on governance or how to choose a clothing style that better suits a public figure.

He'd seek media perspective on certain issues to help better understand his policies' possible impact, if any, on the public. An example I can cite right now happened after he assumed governorship in February 2013 when he asked those who were covering him on Capital Hill what they thought about a controversial figure he was planning on retaining/appointing as Cabinet member, and why.

Controversial figure, in the sense that that person kept fueling tension among members of the public without regard to unity, human relations, and governance. The person was let go, and while it may not be because of media perspective alone, the fact that Inos sought the opinion of others is a good leadership and character trait.

There were times when conversations between Governor Inos and I would still sound like interviews even after a scheduled news briefing or interview proper had ended, but he trusted me well enough when he said "off the record," then nothing goes to print.

But he also understood—and respected—that I could use that "lead" to go after other news sources, seek documents or dig up some more and deliver the same story. It's true what they say about some journalists: You're as good as your sources. Better, if you dig up much more than what your original source knew.

In all this, Inos was always so human. We'd differ in views and perspectives but there's clear understanding about each other's role in society. That helped foster trust and respect between the interviewer and the interviewee. There were light moments and fond memories that reminded us in the media that while Inos carried a great responsibility on his shoulder, he's also like every single one of us who gets sad, frustrated, smiles, laughs and cracks a joke even when the going gets tough.

Inos' health condition was not a secret and he was never one to wallow. He put public service before his own health and welfare.

He served the CNMI until he couldn't serve anymore. We can no longer ask someone for much more when he already gave so much for his people and the Commonwealth until his last breath. But we can be forever grateful for him.

Farewell, Governor Inos.

EDITORIAL

From Page 10

ences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women.

Japan also agreed to pay $8.3 million, public money this time, into a survivor's fund. In accepting the apology, South Korea and Japan said their deal represents "final and irreversible resolution" of the matter.

Will it? Abe did not read his statement in public; he called South Korea's leader. Japan's foreign minister read the agreement at a news conference in Seoul. The two sides also failed to resolve a Japanese complaint about a statue commemorating the comfort women that it wants removed from the street in front of Japan's embassy in Seoul.

Through the years, though Japan has expressed official regret for its wartime behavior, powerful right-wing forces at home have clung to the idea that Japan was not the villain. Japan has never matched the depth of contrition for WWII expressed by Germany. It's hard to avoid comparing Abe's private phone call with the symbolism of West German Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1970, who unexpectedly fell to his knees in genuflection while visiting the memorial to the Warsaw ghetto.

Ultimately it's up to South Korea to decide that the past is now the past. But Japan should continue to reflect publicly on the atrocities it committed, including the sex enslavement of women. It is a dark history.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The rule of succession

Section 7, Article lll of the CNMI Constitution is very specific and without a doubt provides that the vacancy of the office or position of governor shall be filled only by election, special or otherwise, when more than one year remains of the term.

I do wish that this effort of explaining what I thought is the intention of the framers of the CNMI Constitution would be viewed as neither favoring nor disfavoring any particular person, and am only stating a thought based on my understanding of the matter. I have great respect and admiration to the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor and persons now holding these offices. I do not mean to cause any harm other than an interest to draw attention and engage conversation, as the case may be.

Section 7 makes a clear distinction of what we are dealing with here in that the Office of Governor is the "position" and the "person" is the entity elected to fill the office. This is very important to ascertain because of the succession of office that follows in case of removal, death or resignation of the person of this position or office. In addition, it is important recognizing that the condition for assumption of office to the position of governor ensues by "acting" appointment as stated in Section 8, subsections (a) and (b) of Article lll. Thus, the temporary absence of our late governor prior to his passing was effectuated as stated in Section 8 for the succession of persons by "acting" appointment(s).

Reading the first sentence of Section 7, the plausible intent of the framers of the CNMI Constitution must follow and take into account the rest of the meaning of sentences following. It appears that the framers of the CNMI Constitution posits that succession of person(s) to office(s), either the Governor or Lt. Governor, or both, would follow a chain of appointments limited only to specific offices in the chain of command as provided in this section. The offices and persons listed as successor by acting appointments are: the person and the office of the Speaker of the House, the person and the office of the President of the Senate, and the person and the office of the Lt. Governor. Why the offices up the chain of command is filled by "acting" appointment? It is because of what the framers of the CNMI Constitution posits in the last sentence of Section 7: "An acting governor or lieutenant governor who assumes office when more than one year remains in the term may serve only until a governor or lieutenant governor is chosen in a special election provided by law." Acting governor or lieutenant governor as referred here is the person holding the office. Hence, the person holding the lieutenant governor position could hold the vacant position of governor because it is chosen only by election, special or otherwise. Hence, no person may hold the office or position of governor without election. The "government of governance" and "governance of government" are secured under "acting" appointment only, and where holding election is deemed not practical and where the term of office is less than a year remaining.

The terms removal, death, or resignation as stated in the first sentence of Section 7 only refers to the Office of the Governor and the person elected to this position. Nowhere is it written in this sentence concerning the person holding the office of the lieutenant governor where it is the subject of removal, resignation, or death. This important and critical to note, because the last sentence of Section 7 refers to acting governor or lieutenant governor, and suggests that the acting governor or lieutenant governor refers to the same person. Granted that the passing of our late governor would trigger a chain reaction of the succession of office and person, this can only be achieved constitutionally by "acting" appointment until the office of governor is chosen by election. Precedent has been realized in similarly situated prior incidents as the situation now, but in the present situation the likely interpretation must by driven and derived from given facts of the present issue. All business of governing are fully functional except the placement of the person to the governor's office, and that can only be constitutional by popular election of the electorate.

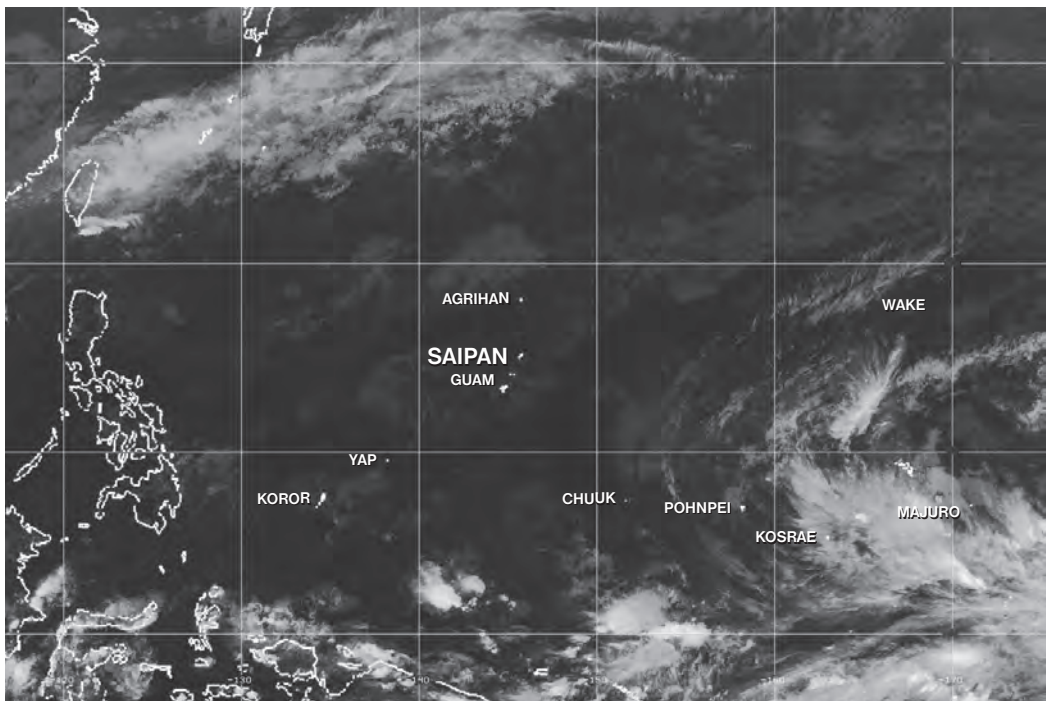
Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy at times with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy at times with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼756°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from southwest of Midway island near 23N180 to 21N172E then continues as a weak shear line to near 17N141E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are seen across the far northern CNMI along and up to 200 miles northwest of the boundary. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Koror south of a line from 2N130E to 1N134E and southeast of Yap between 1N and 4N from 140E to 144E. Similar conditions are seen south of Chuuk south of a line from 2N150E to 3N154E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Kosrae and Majuro within 170 miles of a line from 11N164E to 7N167E to 4N172E and east of Majuro east of a line from 7N174E to EQ174E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼17
Hong Kong	Showers	▲72	▼66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼67
London	Showers	▲51	▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Manila	Sunny	▲90	▼72
Melbourne	Showers	▲78	▼58
Miami	Showers	▲80	▼62
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼45
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲56	▼31
Rome	Rain	▲59	▼52
Salem	Showers	▲34	▼32
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲56	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲40	▼24
Tokyo	Sunny	▲59	▼41
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲51	▼30

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
2:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	5:59 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:00 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:23 AM	1:24 PM
Tuesday	2:11 AM	2:05 PM
Wednesday	3:01 AM	2:49 AM
Thursday	3:52 AM	3:36 PM
Friday	4:44 AM	4:27 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

OAG seeks dismissal of lawsuit vs CHCC, 2 doctors

The Office of the Attorney General has sought the dismissal of a lawsuit filed by former representative Ana S. Teregeyo against the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna and two doctors over alleged negligence that caused her left knee and leg to become infected, necessitating five surgeries and an artificial knee replacement.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay said Teregeyo's complaint should be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, insufficiency of service, and failure to state a cause of action.

In her reply, Teregeyo stated that she filed her complaint based on her understanding of Public Law 16-51, which states in part that CHCC can sue and be sued without any reference to a 90-day requirement.

If it is indeed a requirement, Teregeyo said she is willing to agree to the dismissal of her complaint but without prejudice, which means she can re-file it.

"I believe the statute of limitations will not expire upon the refilling of my complaint, and I would appreciate your drafting the stipulation to dismiss without prejudice, " the former lawmaker told Lochabay in a letter.

Lochabay said CHCC, a public corporation, cannot be sued in tort without first having presented any claim to the attorney general.

Lochabay said Teregeyo has not presented her claim to the AG at least 90 days prior to filing her lawsuit. He said the OAG has not been served with the original summons and complaint nor with a summons and amended complaint.

He said it is unclear whether the other defendants—Muña, Dr. Greg Kotheimer, and Dr. Sherleen Osman—have been sued in their official or individual capacities.

"There are no facts pleaded anywhere in the amended complaint against these defendants, in their official or individual capacities. They are, therefore, entitled to dismissal from this action," Lochabay said said.

Teregeyo's original lawsuit named CHCC, Muña, and some medical staff officers as defendants.

She then amended it to include Kotheimer and Osman. Kotheimer is the acting chief of staff for CHCC, while Osman is the acting director of Medical Affairs for CHCC.

Teregeyo later amended her lawsuit again by adding Benjamin J. Hochhalter as co-defendant with CHCC, Muña, Kotheimer and Osman. She also corrected Osman's name.

Teregeyo said Hochhalter, a physician assistant, failed to diagnose and properly and timely intervene in the management of her surgical incision.

She said CHCC "failed to act in a manner set forth in the CHCC hospital bylaws, thus denying her orthopedic surgeon doctor the ability to care for her left knee and leg during her post-operative care recovery."

Teregeyo asked the Superior Court to hold the defendants liable to pay her in unspecified amount of damages for pain and suffering, mental anguish, and expenses. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WEDDED BLISS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lito Mendoza, left, and his wife Malou celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary last Dec. 31 at Canton Restaurant in Garapan along with their daughters Krizia and Chandelle and Fr. Ryan Jimenez.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field Renovation

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Northern Mariana Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies to provide Construction Services for the **Renovation of the Oleai Sports Complex Track and Field** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island.

Prospective Bidders or firms may pick up a set of the Project Package beginning **Wednesday, December 9, 2015** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. E-mail of the Project Package set will be allowed and a non-refundable payment is required. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set.** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM130001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2016,** at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as part of the mandatory pre-bid conference for the prospective bidders to familiarize themselves with the required work. Attendance at this pre-bid conference and site visit are considered essential to the prospective bidders' understanding of the project elements and a prospective bidder or company that does not have a representative in attendance at the mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

All inquires shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 234-6866. Inquires must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, December 28, 2015.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2016-001**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, Friday, January 22, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00a.m., local time, January 22, 2016 and must be the transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than **Friday, January 22, 2016** and the ITB documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive no later than **Tuesday, February 2, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicity opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. ,local time, Wednesday, February 3, 2016.** However if no noticed of intent to bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, January 22, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check. Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the lowest CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (US$125.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to the commonwealth. This project is also subject to section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the business that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible".

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be affordable full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject and all proposals and to waive and defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

/s/ Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

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PSS discusses missing equipment with NMHC

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has reached out to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to talk about their barred status with regards to the corporation's Community Development Block Grant.

According to NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan visited his office earlier last month.

"I did meet with the commissioner here and we talked about the missing equipment at [Marianas High School] and she mentioned that perhaps those equipment, those collateral equipment are still in the campus," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

Palacios said he mentioned to Sablan that they already paid $69,000 to U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"They said they were going to look for the equipment first before they do anything about…I asked them if they can pay us too but they said they don't have the funds," Palacios said.

NMHC informed PSS last month that they are being disallowed from applying for future CDBG funds and that the corporation will not accept any future CDBG funding applications from PSS "until further notice."

This was due to the loss of MHS Building J collateral equipment that NMHC funded back in 2008. During an inventory check in 2010, NMHC was unable to find the equipment such as laptops, desktops, projectors, and chairs that amount to $69,000.

PSS was also cited for it failure to construct the Saipan Southern High School swimming pool that NMHC funded in 2013.

"We got the CDBG, and then they apply for the grant so they have to follow the sub-recipient agreement. By them not following it, NMHC ended up being penalized for the missing equipment. Somebody had to pay HUD back. HUD said they don't really care who pays it back, they want the money now so we used our own money. HUD also mentioned we can't use federal funds to pay back the $69,000, 'you have to use your own money,'" Palacios said.

"That's money that's coming from our operations, so of course we want to be reimbursed for using our money because we didn't lose the equipment," he added.

Palacios said Sablan will work with MHS to locate the missing equipment.

"She's going to…look for the missing equipment and I think she's also going to look into their procurement people to see their documentation on the missing items," Palacios said.

If the missing equipment have already been disposed of, Palacios said there will still have to be documentations of those equipment. Affidavits of the disposal may then be submitted to HUD.

"I'm sure if maybe they did find some of those, HUD can credit us some of the missing ones that we paid for and add that to our CDB grant but it's on them now to show us the documentation. Because they are saying that they disposed of some of them but there is no paperwork, there's no paper trail to prove that they did," Palacios said.

Guangzhou media spend Christmas in the Marianas

Four media outlets of Guangzhou, China, celebrate Christmas Eve on Dec. 24, 2015, at Mariana Resort & Spa on Saipan. MVA

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, center in red, is joined by media from Guangzhou, China, on a dinner cruise on Dec. 22, 2015, on Saipan. MVA

Four Chinese media outlets spent Christmas in the Marianas on a FAM tour that had an unexpected outcome prompted by the spirit of the holidays.

The group included representatives of Guangdong Radio and TV station, FM 99.3 radio, *Yangcheng Evening News*, and *Modern* weekly magazine.

While on Saipan the group had a full schedule of activities, including a party hosted by Tinian Dynasty Holiday and Saipan Travel Inc. on Christmas Eve with indigenous Chamorro performers at Mariana Resort & Spa, where one of the Chinese tourists made an impromptu marriage proposal to his girlfriend.

"It was a great surprise that he proposed to his girlfriend during the party," said Marianas Visitors Authority Guangzhou Office travel trade manager Tammy Sun, who accompanied the group during their tour. "He hadn't planned ahead of time to propose, but after he saw our decorations for the Christmas party and the warm and sweet atmosphere, he thought it was great timing. Of course, she said yes!"

The group also interviewed MVA managing director Perry Tenorio as part of their coverage.

"We talked about the destination, our accessibility to China, and the importance of the Chinese market to the Northern Marianas," said Tenorio. "I also mentioned some of our annual signature events, and they had a strong interest in the Saipan Marathon slated for April 16, 2016."

While on Saipan the group also took a tour of the scenic and historic sites of Marpi, a jungle tour, a self-driving tour, an aerial discovery tour, a tour of Managaha with water sports, a skydiving tour, a submarine tour, and an ATV tour of Mt. Tapochau.

"Actually, it was a raining day when we rode the ATVs, but we had fun comparing who could spatter more mud," said Sun.

During their visit, the FAM tour group lodged at Saipan World Resort and dined at several establishments offering various cuisines: Happiness Restaurant, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Xin De Xi, and Monster Pizza. ***(MVA)***

Supreme Court upholds assault and battery conviction

On Dec. 29, 2015, the Supreme Court issued *Commonwealth v. Fitial*, 2015 MP 15, affirming Herman S. Fitial's conviction for assault and battery. On appeal, Fitial argued there was insufficient evidence supporting his conviction because his uncorroborated confession could not serve as the basis for a conviction under the doctrine of *corpus delicti*.

On the evening of Jan. 1, 2013, Fitial went to New Chang Ming Market with Felix Kileleman, where they encountered Jefferson Keju. Fitial and Kileleman began arguing with Keju and then chased him toward a nearby gas station. At some point, Keju swung at Fitial, missed, and Fitial allegedly punched Keju on the face. Fitial and Kileleman then chased Keju into the street, where he was struck by two cars. Keju died as a result of his injuries. The next day, Fitial was identified from surveillance video and questioned by detectives Jeffrey Olopai and Elias Q. Saralu. In two separate interviews, Fitial admitted to meeting Keju at the New Chang Ming Market, arguing with him, punching him, and chasing him to the gas station before Keju ran into the street and was struck by a car.

Fitial was charged with involuntary manslaughter and assault and battery. At trial, several witnesses testified to having seen different parts of the encounter, including the argument near New Chang Ming Market, the chase toward the gas station, and some men scuffling with one another. None of the witnesses directly saw anyone strike or punch anyone else. An autopsy showed Keju had wounds consistent with having been punched. The trial court acquitted Fitial on the involuntary manslaughter count but convicted him of assault and battery.

The Supreme Court held there was sufficient evidence supporting Fitial's conviction because there was adequate evidence corroborating his confession under the Commonwealth's *corpus delicti* rule. First, the high court concluded there was sufficient evidence demonstrating that the "criminal conduct at the core of the offense" occurred. In particular, there was witness testimony indicating Fitial encountered Keju at the New Chang Ming Market, chased him, and scuffled with him, and that Keju suffered wounds consistent with having been punched. Second, the high court determined there was sufficient evidence that Fitial's confession was trustworthy because his confession was substantially corroborated and was voluntarily given twice after Fitial was read his Miranda rights. Because Fitial's confession was sufficiently corroborated under the *corpus delicti* rule, the high court affirmed the trial court's decision.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme15.html. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

Family grief support meeting on Jan. 7

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Business

Health care repeal vote to open a political year in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's been like a long-delayed New Year's resolution for Republicans. But 2016 will finally be the year when they put legislation on President Barack Obama's desk repealing his health care law.

The bill undoing the president's prized overhaul will be the first order of business when the House reconvenes this coming week, marking a sharply partisan start on Capitol Hill to a congressional year in which legislating may take a back seat to politics.

AP

In this June 25, 2015, file photo, students cheer as they hold up signs, outside of the Supreme Court in Washington, supporting the Affordable Care Act after the Supreme Court decided that the ACA may provide nationwide tax subsidies.

There are few areas of potential compromise between Obama and the GOP majority in the House and Senate in this election year, but plenty of opportunities for political haymaking during the presidential campaign season.

Obama will veto the health law repeal bill, which also would cut money for Planned Parenthood. The measure already has passed the Senate under special rules protecting it from Democratic obstruction. But that's the point for Republicans, who intend to schedule a veto override vote for Jan. 22, when anti-abortion activists hold their annual march in Washington to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in 1973 that legalized abortion.

Despite dozens of past votes to repeal the health law in full or in part, Republicans never before have succeeded in sending a full repeal bill to the White House. They insist that doing so will fulfill promises to their constituents while highlighting the clear choice facing voters in the November presidential election.

Every Republican candidate has pledged to undo the health law. The Democrats running for president would keep it in place.

"You're going to see us put a bill on the president's desk going after Obamacare and Planned Parenthood so we'll finally get a bill on his desk to veto," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told conservative talk host Bill Bennett over the holidays.

"Then you're going to see the House Republican Conference, working with our senators, coming out with a bold agenda that we're going to lay out for the country, to say how we would do things very differently," Ryan said.

In the Senate, which reconvenes Jan. 11, a week later than the House, early action will include a vote on a proposal by Sen. Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican who is running for president, for an "audit" of the Federal Reserve. Democrats are likely to block it. But, like the health repeal bill in the House, the vote will answer conservative demands in an election year.

Also expected early in the Senate's year is legislation dealing with Syrian refugees, following House passage of a bill clamping down on the refugee program. Conservatives were angry when the year ended without the bill advancing. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky promised a vote, though without specifying whether it would be the House bill or something else.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ukraine to ban array of Russian food imports

MOSCOW (AP)—Ukraine says it will introduce a wide-ranging ban on food imports from Russia in a week, a response to Russia's ban on food products from Ukraine. The decree published on Ukraine's government website on Saturday said the imports will be banned as of Jan. 10. They include meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and dairy products. A similar Russian ban came into effect on Friday. The tit-for-tat moves come in the wake of Ukraine's decision to implement a free trade pact with the European Union. Russia, which opposed the pact, says its ban on Ukrainian food imports is necessary to protect its internal market. In the fall of 2015, Russia and Ukraine imposed bans on air travel between the countries by each other's airlines.

Trial in NYC set to air GM ignition switch recall issues

NEW YORK (AP)— civil trial set to start this month in New York City will test the legal boundaries of hundreds of claims remaining against General Motors Co. stemming from faulty ignition switches. The case involves an Oklahoma man who blames a defective ignition switch for preventing his air bags from deploying during a crash. It's the first trial to result from hundreds of lawsuits filed against GM after the auto giant revealed in 2014 that faulty ignition switches in Chevy Cobalts and other small cars necessitated an unprecedented recall. The switches can slip out of the "on" position, causing the cars to stall, knocking out power steering and turning off air bags. GM knew about the faulty switches for more than a decade but did not recall them until February 2014. The company paid nearly $600 million to settle 399 claims made to a fund it established. Those claims covered 124 deaths and 275 injuries, though GM's fund rejected more than 90 percent of the 4,343 claims it received, according to figures the company released in December.

How an end to phone discounts will help customers

NEW YORK (AP)—AT&T will no longer offer discounted phones with two-year contracts starting Jan. 8. Before you rush out to beat the deadline, consider that you might be better off paying full price for the phone.

That's because phone companies also reduce the monthly bill for voice, text and data services when you buy your own phone or bring a used one. Some may pay a bit more, some a bit less, but the overall bill is roughly the same. What you get in return is more flexibility in which phone you buy and how long you stay with the carrier.

AT&T's decision comes as no surprise. In the third quarter, only 1 in 5 customers chose a contract plan when they signed up with AT&T or upgraded their phones. T-Mobile broke away from contracts completely nearly three years ago, and Verizon stopped offering contracts to new customers in August. Sprint also has been weighing dropping contracts completely.

Sprint CEO Marcelo Claure told The Associated Press in September that discounted, contract phones—including his company's—amount to "a gimmick, a trick. You tell people I'm going to give you a free phone, but really the customer pays in a more expensive service plan."

Indeed, phone discounts mask the true costs of phones and phone services.

Here's an explanation of the changes:

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS NOW?

Most people now buy and pay for phones in monthly installments, though you can also pay the full price upfront. You can also bring a used device, such as one from a friend or family member who has upgraded to a newer model. Sprint and T-Mobile also have leasing options—you pay less each month, but you don't get to keep or resell the device in the end.

WILL I PAY MORE?

Not necessarily so, even though you now have to pay the full price for a phone.

When you got a discounted phone under contract, you were already paying the balance in the form of fees. For instance, the full cost of an iPhone 6s is $650. Although you pay just $200 at the contract rate, the phone company passes along the remaining $450 in higher monthly fees for voice, text and data. Over two years, the $450 comes to $18.75 a month. Put another way, your phone company is subsidizing your phone by $18.75 a month and tacking that on to the phone bill for voice, text and data.

If you forgo the contract, your monthly bill for voice, text and data is typically reduced by $15 or $25 a month. The $25 discount applies for higher data plans—usually ones you share with family members. In such cases, you're actually better off buying the phone yourself, as you're getting a $25 bill reduction but giving up only $18.75 in subsidies.

If your discount is only $15, and you're giving up $18.75 in subsidies, then technically your bill is going up slightly. What you get instead is flexibility.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FLEXIBILITY?

Because phone companies were subsidizing phones, there was an incentive to get the most expensive model, even if you didn't need that. These days, there are many mid-range Android phones that do what high-end phones did just a few years ago. If you choose one of those models, you keep the savings. That's also the case if you get a friend or relative's old phone. You no longer feel that you're losing out by not claiming the most expensive phone in a contract renewal.

And if your phone lasts longer than two years, there's no longer the pressure to upgrade just to claim the phone subsidies. You simply pocket the savings.

More important, you're no longer tied to two-year contracts.

DOES THIS MEAN I CAN SWITCH WHENEVER I LIKE?

Yes and no.

If you buy a phone under an installment plan, you're still stuck with the phone company until you pay off the phone. That said, rival companies often have promotions to pay off the balance for you. And if you pay the full cost of the phone upfront, you own the phone and can switch whenever you like. Just be aware that certain phones work on limited number of networks, so it's still not total freedom.

Universities tap into craft beer growth by offering classes

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—With an explosion in growth in the craft beer industry over the last decade, it's not enough to simply have a passion for brewing and beer when it comes to starting a brewery or working for one as the industry gets more competitive.

Recognizing that, some universities are now offering programs on the business of craft beer.

In the last decade, the number of craft breweries has grown to more than 4,000 in the U.S. today, from more than 1,400 in 2005, according to the Brewers Association.

A lot of breweries started out five or 10 years ago with a focus on beer, said Gregory Dunkling, director of the University of Vermont's new online business of craft beer certificate program, which starts in February. Back then, a home brewer may have been able to create some great recipes but didn't have the business acumen so along the way hired staff to cover marketing, sales, the business operation, he said. It's harder to pull that off today.

As the industry has grown and become more competitive, the bar has been raised for those starting a brewery or working for one, said Bart Watson, chief economist with the Brewers Association.

"Certainly the demand for people with a high level of brewing knowledge has gone up and on the business side as well. So I think we're seeing a variety of different programs look for ways that they can capitalize on that," he said.

Portland State University in Oregon started an online business of craft brewing program in 2013, with the first cohort filling up in the first week with around 40 people. It's become one of the school's most successful professional certificate programs, drawing people from around the world, said Scott Gallagher, the university's director of communications.

"We discovered that there's a huge need for people who wanted to get a certificate. They didn't necessarily want to go to college or already had a college degree and wanted to open up a brew pub," Gallagher said. They needed some basic and more advanced knowledge, such as in marketing, he said.

Nation

St. Louis-area residents face massive cleanup, recovery

By SUMMER BALLENTINE and CARLA K. JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the Mississippi River and its tributaries retreated Saturday from historic winter levels that flooded towns, forced evacuations and killed two dozen people, residents in the St. Louis area were facing a massive cleanup and recovery effort that will likely last weeks.

"The healing process, the restoration process has begun," Chris Greenhagen, pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Eureka, Missouri, one of the communities hit by flooding along the Meramec River earlier this week, said in a telephone interview.

The flood, fueled by more than 10 inches of rain over a three-day period that began last weekend, is blamed for 24 deaths in Illinois and Missouri.

Water from the Mississippi, Meramec and Missouri rivers largely began receding Friday in the St. Louis area. Two major highways—Interstate 44 and Interstate 55—reopened south of St. Louis on Friday and some evacuees were also allowed then to return home.

On Saturday, while residents took stock of the ruin, President Barack Obama signed a federal emergency declaration for Missouri that allows federal aid to be used to help state and local response efforts. It also allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief efforts. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon had asked for the help.

Nixon and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner also toured flood-ravaged areas as near-record crest predictions of the Mississippi River and levee breaks threatened more homes.

In Missouri, Noelle Pace said she packed up electronics, some furniture and her 4-year-old son's clothing and toys and left Pacific on Dec. 28, the day after she received a request to evacuate. She felt lucky to find the damage isolated to her crawl space when she returned for the first time Thursday.

"Everybody around us had catastrophic damage," Pace said. She said she might not be able to move back for weeks while her landlord replaces soaked insulation.

"It doesn't feel real yet," she said.

Illinois Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Patti Thompson said the state's flooding death toll increased to nine. Fifteen have died in Missouri.

Rauner encouraged people to respect requests to evacuate.

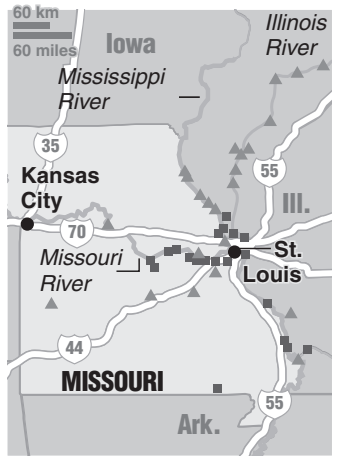
"This is life-threatening," he told reporters at Carlyle Lake in Clinton County in southern Illinois. "It's not just the water; it's the temperature. Hypothermia is a big risk to people's lives."

The main culprit in the St. Louis region was the Meramec River, a relatively small Mississippi tributary that bombarded communities in the far southwestern reaches of the St. Louis suburbs during the week. Two wastewater treatment plants were so damaged by the floodwaters that raw sewage spewed into the river. Hundreds of people were evacuated in the Missouri communities of Pacific, Eureka, Valley Park and Arnold, where many homes took in water.

William Reynolds said he moved at least $50,000 worth of inventory from his Valley Park store to the second story of his nearby home when the evacuation was ordered. He was still unpacking Saturday after the evacuation was lifted.

AP

Jerry Martin walks through his yard after checking on the float potential on his shed in the Wright/Pastoria community Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, in Jefferson County, Ark.



Sources: NOAA, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

ACROSS THE NATION

4 shot dead including man, wife in suburban Los Angeles home

ROWLAND HEIGHTS, Calif. (AP)—A man shot and killed his wife and two others in his home on New Year's Eve before his son wrestled the gun away and fatally shot him in a chain of events apparently set off by a dispute over a washing machine, authorities said. Michael John Morey, 54, shot and killed his bedridden wife, Betty Jean Morey; his son's 48-year-old girlfriend, Linda Patricia Merrell, who also lives at the house in Rowland Heights; and a 27-year-old house guest, Ernesto Calzadilla, Los Angeles County coroner and sheriff's officials said. The father was a heavy drinker with a large gun collection, and authorities had made dozens of previous trips to the home, the sheriff's department said. Investigators were talking to surviving witnesses to figure out what led to the father pulling out a semi-automatic pistol and opening fire Thursday night.

Militia members occupy US building in Oregon after protest

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—A peaceful protest Saturday in support of an eastern Oregon ranching family facing jail time for arson was followed shortly afterward by an occupation of a building at a national wildlife refuge. Ammon Bundy, the son of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who was involved in a standoff with the government over grazing rights, told The Oregonian that he and two of his brothers were among a group of dozens of people occupying the headquarters of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Bundy posted a video on his Facebook page asking for militia members to come help him. He said "this is not a time to stand down. It's a time to stand up and come to Harney County," where Burns is located. Below the video is this statement: "(asterisk)(asterisk)ALL PATRIOTS ITS TIME TO STAND UP NOT STAND DOWN!!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! COME PREPARED." In an interview with reporters late Saturday night that was posted on Facebook, Bundy said he and others are occupying the building because "the people have been abused long enough." "I feel we are in a situation where if we do not do something, if we do not take a hard stand, we'll be in a position where we'll be no longer able to do so," he said.

Two-year twins: Babies born Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 in San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Twins in San Diego are getting some attention because, though born just minutes apart, one has a birthday in 2015 and one in 2016. Jaelyn Valenica was born New Year's Eve at 11:59 p.m. Her twin brother, Luis Valencia Jr., arrived at 12:01 a.m. on New Year's Day. KGTV-TV reports that the babies were due at the end of January, but doctors at San Diego Kaiser Permanente Zion Medical Center called the mother in because one was in a breech position. The father, Luis Valencia, called it a New Year's blessing to have two healthy children.

Man killed by officers was holding phone, not gun, ID'ed

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man who was fatally shot by Las Vegas police while holding a cellphone that was mistaken for a gun had recently been convicted of multiple crimes in Arizona, his attorney said Saturday.

Brad Reinhart last had contact with his client, Keith Childress Jr., 23, last month when a jury was set to issue a verdict in his trial for stealing marijuana and guns from a Phoenix home in 2013. Reinhart said he texted Childress to be at the courthouse, but he never showed up.

"He didn't show up for the final hearing. They had a warrant out for him," Reinhart said.

Las Vegas police said they were assisting U.S. marshals in arresting Childress because he was accused of multiple violent felonies in Arizona including attempted murder. Reinhart said while Childress' crimes were serious, they never included a charge of attempted murder.

According to Maricopa County Superior Court records, a jury convicted Childress on Dec. 17 of burglary, armed robbery, kidnapping, aggravated assault and theft.

The Clark County Office of the Coroner identified Childress on Saturday and said he died from multiple gunshot wounds. His death was ruled a homicide.

The shooting occurred Thursday after Childress had been under surveillance and fled from federal authorities, Las Vegas police said in a statement.

Childress was found outside a home west of downtown. Police said his right hand held what they believed to be a firearm.

Officers told him to drop the gun and ordered him to stop when he began to move toward them. Police said two officers opened fire when Childress didn't obey their commands. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Coroner: Body of 5-year-old boy with autism found in canal

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—The body of a 5-year-old Pennsylvania boy with autism was found in a canal about a quarter mile from a relative's home where the boy wandered away, barefoot and without a coat, during a New Year's Eve party, authorities announced Saturday.

Lehigh County Coroner Scott Grim said an autopsy Monday will help determine when Jayliel Vega Batista entered the water at Canal Park in Allentown.

"Preliminarily, this is being considered a tragic accident," Allentown police Chief Keith Morris said at the same Saturday evening news conference.

The boy went missing about 10:30 p.m. Thursday, after family members told police he was playing with a tablet computer with other children before he simply wandered away without being immediately noticed. Temperatures were near freezing Friday night into Saturday, and rose to only the high 30s.

Search dogs tracked the boy's scent to the canal, where a searcher found the tablet early Saturday afternoon. That prompted police to call in fire department divers who found the boy's body about 8 feet from shore, in 6 feet of water, authorities said.

"At this point, we don't believe there was any foul play involved," Morris said. But police were continuing their investigation in hopes of pinpointing where, how and why the boy may have entered the water.

The chief couldn't immediately say whether anyone might face charges because the boy wandered away, though authorities took care to note they were attempting to assist the boy's grieving family. They asked reporters and the public to respect the family's privacy, and said a local funeral director has offered to pay for the boy's burial.

"I loved my son," the boy's father Gilberto Vega said shortly after being told of his son's death, The (Allentown) Morning Call reported. "He had no fear. He didn't understand the dangers."

Asia

Death toll in Indian base attack rises to 6 troops, 4 gunmen

PATHANKOT, India (AP)—The number of troops killed in an attack on an Indian air force base has risen to six after four soldiers succumbed to injuries sustained in the hourslong gunbattle near the border with Pakistan, officials said Sunday. Four suspected militants were also killed in the fighting.

Air force spokeswoman Rochelle D'Silva said that combing operations to secure the Pathankot air force base were continuing by late Sunday morning. Officials gave no other details about the situation at the base. Earlier in the day, at least one grenade blast was heard from inside the base, but officials declined to comment.

The attack started a few hours before dawn on Saturday when a group of militants entered the area where the living quarters are located, the Defense Ministry said. The gunbattle - which lasted about 14 hours—came just a week after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit to arch rival Pakistan.

AP
An Indian ambulance carries the injured to the hospital outside the Indian airbase in Pathankot, 430 kilometers (267 miles) north of New Delhi, India, Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016.

It was the first visit to Pakistan in 12 years by an Indian prime minister and marked a significant thaw in the mostly difficult relations between the nuclear-armed nations.

Police have said they're investigating whether the gunmen came from the Indian portion of Kashmir, where rebels routinely stage attacks, or from Pakistan.

The death of six Indian troops came despite the fact that there had been intelligence reports about a likely terror attack on military installations in Pathankot.

A Defense Ministry statement Saturday said that based on those intelligence reports the air force had been prepared to thwart any attackers.

Pathankot is on the highway that connects India's insurgency-wracked Jammu and Kashmir state with the rest of the country. It's also very close to India's border with Pakistan. The Himalayan region of Kashmir, where rebels have been fighting since 1989 for independence or merger with Pakistan, is divided between India and Pakistan, but is claimed in its entirety by both.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmir's insurgents, a charge Islamabad denies, and the attack was viewed by many in India as an attempt to unravel recent progress in the country's relationship with its archrival.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Firecrackers leave 1 dead, 380 injured in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say firecrackers have left at least one man dead, 380 other revelers injured and caused a fire that gutted 1,000 shanties, despite rains and a government scare campaign. Health Secretary Janet Garin said Friday that a drunken man lit a dynamite-like firecracker called "Goodbye Philippines" and embraced it on New Year's Eve, ripping his jaw and killing him. Garin says the number of injured, while still alarming, was less than half of last year's number because of rains late Thursday and government warnings that people risked limb amputations if they were injured by oversized firecrackers. Fire officials also said a rocket lit by revelers set ablaze an abandoned hut and sparked a fire that razed about 1,000 shanties in Manila.

Japan emperor wishes for peace in New Year's appearance

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito has expressed his hopes for world peace as he appeared with his wife, Empress Michiko, two sons and grandchildren behind bullet-proof glass before thousands of well-wishers waving flags. Akihito, scheduled to make five such appearances at Tokyo's Imperial Palace Saturday, read a New Year's statement in which he expressed his sympathy for people displaced from their homes and still living in temporary housing after the March 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan. Michiko, wearing a pinkish beige dress, waved to the crowd, estimated by public broadcaster NHK at 44,000. Masako, wife of the crown prince who has made rare public appearances because of a stress-related illness, also joined this year's New Year's greeting, smiling in a deep blue dress.

Pakistan army chief confirms death sentences for 9 militants

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Raheel Sharif on Friday confirmed nine death sentences awarded by military courts over a series of attacks that killed dozens of security officials and civilians in recent years, the military said. In a statement, the military described the nine condemned men as "hardcore terrorists." The men included an al-Qaida activist and a Pakistani Taliban member, Muhammad Ghauri, who was convicted of involvement in the 2009 attack on a mosque in the city of Rawalpindi that killed 38 worshippers, it said. Pakistan has executed nearly 330 people in less than a year, since lifting a 2008 moratorium on the death penalty. The lifting of the moratorium was meant to be part of a crackdown on Islamic militants, but most of those executed have been convicted of criminal offenses.

North Korean leader talks war but doesn't comment on nukes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in an annual New Year's speech Friday that he was ready for war if provoked by "invasive" outsiders, but he stayed away from past threats involving the country's nuclear weapons and long-range missile ambitions.

His comments stuck to well-worn propaganda meant to lift his image for the elite residents of one of the world's poorest, most closed countries, and could be read as an attempt to keep ties with rivals Washington and Seoul from getting worse so he can try to turn around a miserable economy and further solidify his leadership.

"We will continue to work patiently to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula and regional stability. But if invasive outsiders and provocateurs touch us even slightly, we will not be forgiving in the least and sternly answer with a merciless, holy war of justice," said Kim, who wore thick black-rimmed glasses that continued his efforts to mimic the style favored by his late grandfather, beloved national founder Kim Il Sung.

While largely repeating the daily propaganda in state-controlled media, Kim's words will be pored over by analysts for hints about the country's intentions for the coming year. There is little public information about the inner workings and policy goals of North Korea's government, which considers democratic South Korea and its ally the United States its enemies and is pursuing a long-range missile that could carry a nuclear warhead to America's mainland.

Some observers had predicted that Kim would avoid overly provocative statements because the county wants to improve relations with South Korea and also China, its most important economic and strategic ally. Ties between North Korea and China have been cool since Kim took power in 2011, but seemed to improve when a senior Chinese official attended a high-profile military parade in Pyongyang in October.

Kim said he was open to talks with anyone truly interested in "reconciliation and peace" on the Korean Peninsula, and ready to "aggressively" work to improve ties with the South. But a far larger part of his speech on North Korea's state TV was devoted to criticism of Seoul's approach to inter-Korean talks and its alliance with Washington.

He vowed to improve North Korea's struggling economy and living standards, and also called for the military to advance its technologies to develop more "diversified attack means."

Analysts say Kim likely wants a push for tangible diplomatic and economic achievements before a convention of the ruling Workers' Party in May, the party's first since 1980, when he is widely expected to announce major state policies and shake up the country's political elite to strengthen his position.

The rival Koreas have shown mixed progress in reconciliation efforts since stepping away from a military standoff in August, which started when land mine explosions that Seoul blamed on Pyongyang maimed two South Korean soldiers. The countries ended rare high-level talks last month with no breakthroughs.

China rejects Vietnam protest over sea flight test

BEIJING (AP)—China rejected a protest from Vietnam over a flight test it has conducted on a new airstrip on a man-made island in the South China Sea, saying it is part of China's territory.

Vietnam Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Hai Binh said that the test flight violated Vietnam's sovereignty, breached mutual understanding and hurt the bilateral relations.

"Vietnam resolutely protests Chinese above-said action and demand that China immediately stop, not repeat similar actions," he said in a statement.

In a response Saturday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the test flight on the newly built airstrip on Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly Islands was carried out to find out if the new airfield met the standards for civil aviation.

"Relevant activity falls completely within China's sovereignty," Hua said in a statement. "The Chinese side will not accept the unfounded accusations from the Vietnamese side."

China has become more assertive in pressing its claims to the South China Sea islands, an archipelago rich in natural resources that is the focal point of rival claims by neighboring governments.

China has recently piled sand on coral reefs atop of which it built airfields, radar installations and docking facilities. As with most of its policy in the South China Sea, Beijing has remained opaque about its plans for the island airstrips.

Beijing insists its island building works are justified and don't constitute a threat to stability and freedom of navigation. The U.S. and its regional allies have expressed concern that China's robust assertion of its claims has aggravated tensions.

Although Vietnam already has an airstrip in the Spratlys, it is just long enough to accommodate slow-moving cargo and surveillance planes. China's airstrip on Fiery Cross Reef is long enough for bombers capable of launching cruise missiles.

World

Iran, Saudi step up war of words over executed Shiite cleric

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's top leader on Sunday warned Saudi Arabia of "divine revenge" over the execution of an opposition Shiite cleric while Riyadh accused Tehran of supporting terrorism, escalating a war of words hours after protesters stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

Saudi Arabia announced the execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr on Saturday along with 46 others, including three other Shiite dissidents and a number of al-Qaida militants. Al-Nimr was a central figure in protests by Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority until his arrest in 2012, and his execution drew condemnation from Shiites across the region.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei condemned the execution Sunday in a statement on his website, saying al-Nimr "neither invited people to take up arms nor hatched covert plots. The only thing he did was public criticism."

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry said that by condemning the execution, Iran had "revealed its true face represented in support for terrorism."

The statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, accused Tehran of "blind sectarianism" and said that "by its defense of terrorist acts" Iran is a "partner in their crimes in the entire region."

AP

Smoke rises as Iranian protesters set fire to the Saudi embassy in Tehran, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2016. Protesters upset over the execution of a Shiite cleric in Saudi Arabia set fires to the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

Al-Nimr was convicted of terrorism charges but denied ever advocating violence.

Sunni Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran are locked in a bitter rivalry, and support opposite sides in the wars in Syria and Yemen. Iran accuses Saudi Arabia of supporting "terrorism" in part because it backs Syrian rebel groups, while Riyadh points to Iran's support for the Lebanese Hezbollah and other Shiite militant groups in the region.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned the Saudi envoy in Tehran to protest, while the Saudi Foreign Ministry later said it had summoned Iran's envoy to the kingdom to protest the critical Iranian reaction to the sheikh's execution, saying it represented "blatant interference" in its internal affairs.

In Tehran, the crowd gathered outside the Saudi embassy early Sunday and chanted anti-Saudi slogans. Some protesters threw stones and Molotov cocktails at the embassy, setting off a fire in part of the building, said the country's top police official, Gen. Hossein Sajedinia, according to the semiofficial Tasnim news agency. He later said police had removed the protesters from the building and arrested some of them, saying the situation had been "defused."

The cleric's execution could also complicate Saudi Arabia's relationship with the Shiite-led government in Iraq. The Saudi embassy in Baghdad reopened for the first time in nearly 25 years on Friday. Already on Saturday there were public calls for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to shut the embassy down again.

Al-Abadi tweeted Saturday night that he was "shocked and saddened" by al-Nimr's execution, adding that "peaceful opposition is a fundamental right. Repression does not last."

Hundreds of al-Nimr's supporters also protested in his hometown of al-Qatif in eastern Saudi Arabia, in neighboring Bahrain where police fired tear gas and bird shot, and as far away as northern India.

Somali extremists use Donald Trump clip to recruit followers

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Al-Qaida's East African affiliate has released a recruitment video targeting American blacks and Muslims that includes a clip of presidential candidate Donald Trump calling for Muslims to be banned from entering the United States.

The 51-minute video by the Somalia based al-Shabab militant group presents the U.S. as a country of institutionalized racism against blacks that also persecutes Muslims. The video presents radical Islam as the solution.

The clip of Trump on the campaign trail consists of his infamous proposal for the "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" to protect the country.

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton had earlier claimed that the Islamic State group, another extremist organization, was using such quotes to recruit followers, prompting Trump to call her a "liar."

The quotes from Trump are bracketed by a recorded speech from Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, one of the most prominent English-language recruiters for al-Qaida who was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in 2011, warning that the U.S. would turn against its Muslims.

The video was released on Twitter Friday, according to the SITE Intel monitoring group and tells the story of several Americans from Minnesota that joined al-Shabab and were killed in the fighting in Somalia, holding them up as examples to be followed.

Using footage from recent racial conflicts in the U.S. as well as historic quotes from Malcolm X, the video lays out the argument that blacks and Muslims will always face discrimination in the U.S. and should join jihadi movements to fight back.

Ben Rhodes, a deputy national security adviser in the Obama administration, said he won't comment on any particular presidential candidate's remarks, but the administration has long warned that terrorist organizations will take advantage of any notion that the U.S. is at war with Islam.

Rhodes said he would hope that American send a message that rejects the notion that the U.S. and Islam are at war, and instead emphasize the contributions of Muslim-Americans.

As 2016 dawns, Europe braces for more waves of migrants

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Bitter cold, biting winds and rough winter seas have done little to stem the seemingly endless flow of desperate people fleeing war or poverty for what they hope will be a brighter, safer future in Europe. As 2016 dawns, boatloads continue to reach Greek shores and thousands trudge across Balkan fields and country roads heading north.

More than a million people reached Europe in 2015 in the continent's largest refugee influx since the end of World War II—a crisis that has tested European unity and threatened the vision of a borderless continent. Nearly 3,800 people are estimated to have drowned in the Mediterranean last year, making the journey to Greece or Italy in unseaworthy vessels packed far beyond capacity.

The European Union has pledged to bolster patrols on its external borders and quickly deport economic migrants, while Turkey has agreed to crack down on smugglers operating from its coastline. But those on the front lines of the crisis say the coming year promises to be difficult unless there is a dramatic change.

Greece has borne the brunt of the exodus, with more than 850,000 people reaching the country's shores, nearly all arriving on Greek islands from the nearby Turkish coast.

"The (migrant) flows continue unabated. And on good days, on days when the weather isn't bad, they are increased," Ioannis Mouzalas, Greece's minister responsible for migration issues, told The Associated Press. "This is a problem and shows that Turkey wasn't able—I'm not saying that they didn't want—to respond to the duty and obligation it had undertaken to control the flows and the smugglers from its shores."

Europe's response to the crisis has been fractured, with individual countries, concerned about the sheer scale of the influx, introducing new border controls aimed at limiting the flow. The problem is compounded by the reluctance of many migrants' countries of origin, such as Pakistan, to accept forcible returns.

"If measures are not taken to stop the flows from Turkey and if Europe doesn't solve the problems of the returns as a whole, it will be a very difficult year," Mouzalas warned.

Along the Balkan migrant route, an undetermined number of men, women and children considered economic migrants have found themselves stranded, their hopes of reaching prosperous northern EU countries dashed by recent border closures.

France quarrels over revoking citizenship of terrorists

PARIS (AP)—The push by France's Socialist government to revoke the citizenship of convicted terrorists with dual nationality after the Paris attacks has turned into a harsh political dispute, with the far right applauding the move while some on the left express indignation at what they call a divisive measure.

French President Francois Hollande submitted the proposal three days after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that left 130 dead, in a shift toward a hard line on security. The idea appears to have strong support in French public opinion. Several polls over the past week suggest that 80 to 90 percent of the French are in favor of the measure.

Under current French law, citizenship revocation can only be applied to people who have been naturalized, not if they are French-born, and the procedure is rarely implemented.

The new rules would extend it to all dual nationals, but cannot be applied to people who are only French citizens, as France's obligations under international law prevent it from leaving a person stateless.

Opponents of the measure consider it would create two classes of citizens—dual nationals who could lose their citizenship and others who cannot—in opposition to the principle of equality set out in France's constitution.

French authorities have not said how many of those arrested over the Paris attacks are dual nationals.

Prominent Socialist Party figures, including former Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, have publicly expressed their disapproval, but Hollande has stuck to his guns.

"France must take the good decisions beyond traditional party divisions," the president said in his New Year's Eve speech.

While the left is divided, Hollande is getting unusual support from the right. The far-right National Front has claimed it is at the origin of the idea. "Terrorists don't deserve French citizenship, because French citizenship is an honor", vice president of the party Florian Philippot told France Info radio.

Health & Fitness

Hawaii raises smoking age to 21; military supports new law

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii is raising the legal smoking to age 21 for traditional and electronic cigarettes on Jan. 1, becoming the first state in the nation to do so.

Public health officials are hoping that by making it more difficult for young people to get their hands on cigarettes, they will keep them from developing an unhealthy addiction.

"In Hawaii, about one in four students in high school try their first cigarette each year, and one in three who get hooked will die prematurely," said Lola Irvin, administrator with the chronic disease prevention and health promotion division of the Hawaii Department of Health.

Officials included electronic smoking devices in the law after noticing a spike in the number of students trying electronic cigarettes. The percentage of Hawaii public high school students smoking electronic cigarettes quadrupled over four years to 22 percent in 2015, and among middle-schoolers, 12 percent reported using them in 2015, a sixfold increase over four years.

While Hawaii is the first state to raise the smoking age to 21, more than 100 cities and counties have already done so, including New York City. The town of Needham, Massachusetts, raised the smoking age to 21 in 2005, and a decade later the percentage of adults smoking was 50 percent lower than the rest of the state.

Several military bases in Hawaii expressed their support for the move, saying their bases would comply with the state law.

"We see it as a fitness and readiness issue," said Bill Doughty, spokesman for the Navy Region Hawaii. "When we can prevent sailors from smoking or using tobacco, if we can get them to quit, then that improves their fitness and readiness, and it saves them a ton of money too."

But critics say that if a man or woman is old enough to potentially die defending their country, they're old enough to make a decision about smoking. "If you can serve the country, you should be able to have a drink and a cigarette," said Justin Warren, 22, an X-ray technician in the Army.

Taylor Dwyer, 21, also an Army X-ray technician, said smoking is a "way for us to come down after the work day. It's not like a regular work day. It's a lot more stressful, especially for people who are in combat jobs."

AP
In this Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 photo, retailer Holy Smokes has signs posted around its entryway to alert customers to the state's new smoking laws in Honolulu.

Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, countered those arguments in a blog post, saying "If someone is young enough to fight for their country, they should be free from addiction to a deadly drug."

As the state begins enforcing the law, the first three months of the year will be dedicated to educating the public, so warnings will be handed out instead of fines, officials said.

After that, young people caught smoking will be fined $10 for the first offense and $50 or community service for any further offenses. Retailers caught selling cigarettes to people under 21 can be fined $500 for the first offense and up to $2,000 for later offenses.

The Health Department has distributed about 4,000 signs to 650 vendors, said Lila Johnson, public health educator at the agency. To reach tourists, officials have been meeting with representatives from the tourism industry, business and hotels, and officials plan to produce signs in different languages, she said.

"People are going to be coming in and out of our state that aren't aware of it," Johnson said. "It's a matter of education. We hope to see a lot more states picking it up so we're not the only one."

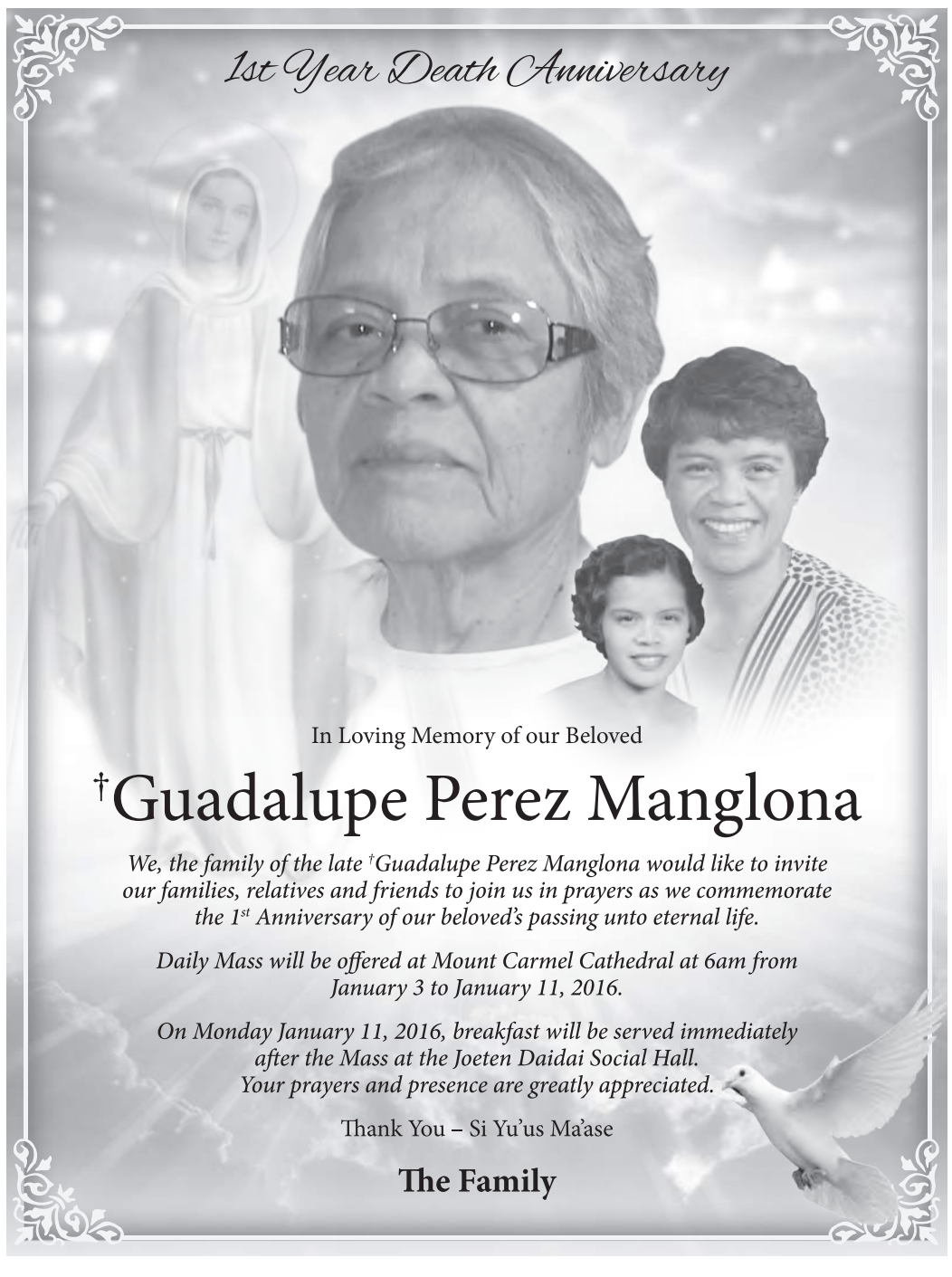
Sabrina Olaes, 18, said she started organizing events to educate her classmates about the dangers of smoking after getting frustrated finding herself surrounded by fumes from electronic cigarettes in the girl's bathroom at her school.

She called the tobacco industry's marketing practices deceptive, and said some of the flavors of electronic cigarettes are targeted at young people. But her smoking friends didn't always want to hear what she had to say.

"It's not easy conveying your opinions to people who may not agree with you, and I've definitely made a lot of enemies, but also a lot of allies," Olaes said. "Even though you don't get them to quit right away, you do get them to second-guess their choices."

Personal Trainer
Does exercise make a cold worse?
Most people have about six colds a year, and they go away whether the person exercises or not, but does exercise worsen them?
New research
50 moderately fit student volunteers were given equal doses of rhinovirus
25 ran, climbed stairs or bicycled at moderate rate* for 40 minutes daily
*70% of aerobic heart rate
25 stayed inactive, except for going to class and working part-time jobs
The cold facts
• About 40% of colds are caused by germs called rhinoviruses
• Colds kept several athletes from performing well at the 1992 Winter Olympics
Tissue!
After 10 days No significant difference in cold symptoms between the two groups
Effect of heavy exercise on colds still not known
Recommendations
"Above-the-neck" cold
Moderate exercise is probably safe and won't make the cold worse
• Runny nose
• Sneezing
• Scratchy throat
"Below-the-neck" cold: Avoid exercise until the illness has run its course
• Fever
• Sore muscles or joints
• Vomiting or diarrhea
• Coughing with mucous
Source: Ball State University study, American College of Sports Medicine
Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

1st Year Death Anniversary



In Loving Memory of our Beloved

†Guadalupe Perez Manglona

We, the family of the late †Guadalupe Perez Manglona would like to invite our families, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the 1st Anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6am from January 3 to January 11, 2016.

On Monday January 11, 2016, breakfast will be served immediately after the Mass at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.
Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

Life & Style

Natalie Cole, master of past and present styles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—She began as a 1970s soul singer hyped as the next Aretha Franklin and peaked in the 1990s as an old-fashioned stylist and time-defying duet partner to her late father, Nat "King" Cole.

Natalie Cole, who died Thursday in Los Angeles at age 65, was a Grammy winning superstar honored and haunted by comparisons to others. "Natalie fought a fierce, courageous battle, dying how she lived ... with dignity, strength and honor. Our beloved Mother and sister will be greatly missed and remain UNFORGETTABLE in our hearts forever," read a statement from her son, Robert Yancy, and sisters Timolin and Casey Cole.

According to her family, Cole died of complications from ongoing health issues. She had battled drug problems and hepatitis that forced her to undergo a kidney transplant in May 2009. Cole's older sister, Carol "Cookie" Cole, died the day she received the transplant. Their brother, Nat Kelly Cole, died in 1995.

"I had to hold back the tears," Franklin, who had feuded with Cole early in Cole's career, said in a statement. "She fought for so long. She was one of the greatest singers of our time. She represented the Cole legend of excellence and class quite well."

A mezzo-soprano with striking range and power, Cole was destined to be a singer, the only question being what kind. She was inspired by her dad at an early age and auditioned to sing with him when she was just 11 years old. She was 15 when he died of lung cancer, in 1965, and would reunite with him decades later in a way only possible through modern technology.

All along, she was moved by and sometimes torn between past and present sounds. As a young woman, she had listened to Franklin and Janis Joplin and for years was reluctant to perform her father's material. She sang on stage with Frank Sinatra, but also covered Bruce Springsteen's "Pink Cadillac."

"I was determined to create my own identity," she wrote in her 2010 memoir "Love Brought Me Back."

The public loved her either way.

She made her recording debut in 1975 with "Inseparable," and the music industry welcomed her with two Grammy Awards—one for best new artist and one for best female R&B vocal performance for her buoyant hit "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)." Her quick success and the similarities to Franklin, another mezzo-soprano, did not please the "Queen of Soul," who at the time called Cole "just a beginner."

AP

In a Wednesday, June 26, 2013 file photo, Grammy winning singer-songwriter Natalie Cole poses for a portrait in promotion of her new album "Natalie Cole en Espanol," in New York.

"The first time I saw Aretha was at an industry banquet," Cole later told Franklin biographer David Ritz. "She gave me an icy stare and turned her back on me. It took me weeks to recover."

Backed by the writing-producing team of Chuck Jackson and Marvin Yancy, she followed with such hits as "Our Love" and "I've Got Love on My Mind," and by 1979 had a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. But her career faded in the early 1980s and she battled heroin, crack cocaine and alcohol addiction for many years. She spent six months in rehab in 1983.

Her recovery began later in the decade with the album "Everlasting" and reached multiplatinum heights with her 1991 album, "Unforgettable ... With Love." No longer trying to keep up with current sounds, Cole paid tribute to her father with reworked versions of some of his best-known songs, including "That Sunday That Summer," ''Too Young" and "Mona Lisa."

Her voice was overlaid with her dad's in the title cut, offering a delicate duet a quarter-century after his death.

Although criticized by some as morbid, the album sold some 14 million copies and won six Grammys, including album of the year as well record and song of the year for the title track duet.

While making the album, Cole told The Associated Press in 1991, she had to "throw out every R&B lick that I had ever learned and every pop trick I had ever learned. With him, the music was in the background and the voice was in the front."

"I didn't shed really any real tears until the album was over," Cole said. "Then I cried a whole lot. When we started the project it was a way of reconnecting with my dad. Then when we did the last song, I had to say goodbye again."

She was nominated for an Emmy award in 1992 for a televised performance of her father's songs.

"That was really my thank you," she told People magazine in 2006. "I owed that to him."

Key songs from Natalie Cole

NEW YORK (AP)—Though her father was the incomparable Nat "King" Cole, Natalie Cole successfully carved out her own space in the musical universe with hit songs and albums that earned her multiple Grammy Awards. After some of her albums proved unsuccessful, she reinvented herself and had a comeback that brought her to the top of the charts. And though she battled with heavy drug addiction, she marked a clean return and even advocated against drug use in the music industry.

A passionate singer who connected emotionally with her songs, Natalie Cole was a versatile performer throughout her career, singing styles that included R&B, pop, and jazz, among others. She died Thursday in Los Angeles at age 65.

Some of her best work:

- "This Will Be" (1975)
- "Inseparable" (1975)
- "I've Got Love On My Mind" (1977)
- "Our Love" (1977)
- "Someone That I Used to Love" (1980)
- "Jump Start" (1987)
- "I Live for Your Love" (1987)
- "Pink Cadillac" (Bruce Springsteen cover) (1987)
- "Miss You Like Crazy" (1989)
- "Unforgettable" (with Nat King Cole) (1991)

SIDEBAR

Reactions to the death of Natalie Cole

"I am sorry to hear about Natalie Cole's passing. I had to hold back the tears. I know how hard she fought. She fought for so long. She was one of the greatest singers of our time. She represented the Cole legend of excellence and class quite well." **--Aretha Franklin.**

"Natalie was an exceptional jazz singer and it was an honor to have recorded and performed with her on several occasions. She was a lovely and generous person who will be greatly missed. **--Tony Bennett.**

"More like family than friend was Natalie. My heart aches. My sincere condolences to her family and may she now rest in peace." **--Dionne Warwick.**

"We are very saddened to learn of the passing of one of music's most celebrated and iconic women ... Natalie followed her legendary father into the music business with magnificent hits like "Inseparable," ''This Will Be" and "Unforgettable," achieving multiplatinum, worldwide success in her own right. We've lost a wonderful, highly cherished artist." **--Neil Portnow, president/CEO of The Recording Academy.**

"In college, I named my bass guitar Natalie! As a young stand up comic I opened for Natalie Cole. She was all that, in all ways! (RIP)." **--Arsenio Hall.**

"#NatalieCole, sister beloved & of substance and sound. May her soul rest in peace. #Inseperable." **--Rev. Jesse Jackson.**

"I am saddened by the news of the passing of my friend Natalie Cole. Lovely song bird (and great actress too)—she is now singing in heaven." **--Marlee Matlin.**

"Peace be still, Natalie Cole, a gracious songbird." **--Pam Grier.**

"Sending prayers and condolences to all the loved ones of my friend #NatalieCole! She will be truly missed but her light will shine forever!" **--Patti LaBelle.**

"One of the loveliest people I've ever worked with. She was always sweet, always wanted to please and was just so nice." **--Ken Erlich, executive producer of the Grammys.**

"In a way, she was like a connector. She connected her father's generation ... and the great pop singers of that time with the generation that cane right after her, or alongside her, of great women—Whitney, Anita Baker, Mariah, Celine." **--Ken Erlich.**

"Sophisticated Lady. I Love Natalie Cole so much man. One of the first childhood idols I got to meet and nerd out on when I first got in the business." **--Questlove from The Roots.**

"Rest in peace Natalie Cole.. I will forever love your music. Your voice was like an Angel." **--Fantasia.**

"As the new year was ushered in, an angelic instrument moved on. Natalie Cole's voice was perfection. And what a lady... You will be missed my dear. Love." **--Lenny Kravitz.**

"Prayers for #NatalieColes family. She saw and touched the world through her journey of life and with her beautiful voice. #Inseparable." **--MC Hammer.**

"We will miss her like crazy." **--Rosie O'Donnell.**

George Lucas apologizes for calling Disney 'white slavers'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Lucas has apologized for criticizing Disney's handling of "Star Wars" and saying he had sold his characters to "white slavers" in a recent interview with Charlie Rose.

In a statement issued Thursday, Lucas says he misspoke and used a "very inappropriate analogy." It was not clear what the "Star Wars" creator meant by the "white slavers" comment, and Rose did not ask a follow-up question on his PBS show that aired Dec. 24. The charged words nonetheless sparked ire when the interview was posted online Wednesday.

Lucas

"I rarely go out with statements to clarify my feelings but I feel it is important to make it clear that I am thrilled that Disney has the franchise and is moving it in such exciting directions," said Lucas in his statement.

He sold his company, Lucasfilm, to the Walt Disney Co. in 2012 for $4.06 billion, and the studio charged ahead in developing "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" with director J.J. Abrams and Lucasfilm president Kathleen Kennedy. Disney has laid plans for two more "Star Wars" films and three anthology films set in the Star Wars universe over the next few years.

Lucas discussed his decision to stay out of the new installments in the hour-long interview with Rose and had criticized Disney's retro, fan-centric approach to "The Force Awakens." The interview was conducted prior to the Dec. 14 premiere of the film, where Disney chairman and CEO Bob Iger thanked Lucas, who was in attendance, for his "sheer genius" in creating "Star Wars."

"The Force Awakens" plays homage to Lucas' original trilogy and has garnered largely positive reviews from fans and critics alike. After less than two weeks in theaters, it has already become the eighth highest grossing film of all time globally.

"I have been working with Disney for 40 years and chose them as the custodians of 'Star Wars' because of my great respect for the company and Bob Iger's leadership," said Lucas in his Thursday statement. "Disney is doing an incredible job of taking care of and expanding the franchise."

'Game of Thrones' author blogs that he missed book deadline

NEW YORK (AP)—For fans of George R.R. Martin, winter is not coming—at least not right away.

The "Game of Thrones" author says he missed a Dec. 31 deadline to finish "The Winds of Winter," the sixth book in his popular fantasy series. That means the next HBO season based on the novel will start airing in April, before the book is published.

Martin

The words "you won't like it" appeared Saturday on Martin's blog, reporting that "the book's not done. ... I tried, I promise you. I failed."

Martin says he is working with HBO to ensure the show reflects the next installment of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" books—in which characters warn of impending doom with the phrase "Winter is coming."

With hundreds of pages and dozens of chapters written, Martin said he estimates it will still take months more if the writing goes well.

"You can blame my travels or my blog posts or the distractions of other projects and the Cocteau and whatever, but maybe all that had an impact," he wrote, referring to the single-screen Jean Cocteau Cinema he purchased and fixed up in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he lives.

"For months now I have wanted nothing so much as to be able to say, 'I have completed and delivered The Winds of Winter' on or before the last day of 2015," the 67-year-old author blogged.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Aide to architect I.M. Pei, 98, charged with assaulting him

NEW YORK (AP)—A home health aide to 98-year-old renowned architect I.M. Pei has been charged with assaulting him inside his New York City home. Pei told police that 28-year-old Eter Nikolaishvili grabbed his right forearm and forcefully twisted it Dec. 13. Authorities say Pei's arm was bruised and bleeding after the attack. Police investigated for two weeks before arresting the aide on Tuesday. The aide was arraigned in Manhattan criminal court on a charge of felony assault. She was released without bail. The aide's attorney hasn't returned a phone call seeking comment. Pei's designs include the John F. Kennedy Library in Massachusetts and the glass and steel pyramid at the Louvre in Paris. In 1983, Pei was awarded the Pritzker Prize, known as the Nobel Prize of architecture.

Ai Weiwei wants to raise awareness about refugee crisis

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Chinese artist Ai Weiwei wants to raise consciousness about the plight of refugees through his, and his students', art. Ai, who has made his name as much through his clashes with Chinese authorities as through his art, has set up a studio on the Greek island of Lesbos, the main point of entry for hundreds of thousands of refugees over the past year. The studio will produce several projects with themes related to the refugee crisis from him and his students, Ai told reporters. "As an artist, I have to relate to humanity's struggles...I never separate these situations from my art," Ai said. Ai warmly praised the people of Lesbos as having "very good understanding" of the refugees' plight and their needs and for being "very helpful and very tolerant" but emphasized their "very limited resources" to deal with the issue. He also praised several foreign non-governmental organizations doing "very impressive work", mentioning especially groups from the Netherlands, Norway and Spain, but also said there is a lack of awareness in Europe and the rest of the world of the situation and willingness to act.

Philadelphia celebrates New Year's Day with Mummers Parade

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Outrageously costumed Mummers have strutted and twirled at Philadelphia's annual New Year's Day parade, a colorful celebration that features string bands, comic brigades, elaborate floats and plenty of feathers and sequins. Participants danced wildly and toted parasols Friday down Broad Street, the city's main north-south thoroughfare, during the 116th edition of what has been called Philadelphia's Mardi Gras. New this year was the "Philadelphia Division," meant to inject some diversity into the parade, with two new Hispanic performance groups, a black drill team and the LGBT Miss Fancy Brigade. But some critics called the parade offensive, with one performing group painting their faces brown to portray Mexicans and a comic brigade mocking Caitlyn Jenner. Dozens of activists from the Black Lives Matter movement used the parade to stage a protest.

Vegas police investigating Chris Brown for alleged battery

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Las Vegas police are investigating an allegation of battery against R&B singer Chris Brown.

Authorities received a call shortly before 10:30 a.m. Saturday about the alleged battery at the Palms Casino Resort, Lt. Jeff Goodwin said. A police statement Saturday evening said an altercation took place in a room at the resort when the woman went to take a picture of Brown.

The woman said she was struck by Brown and that he had taken her cellphone, police said. Detectives tried to speak with Brown at his hotel room, but the singer left before police had arrived.

A crime report has been taken for misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor battery listing Brown as a suspect, police said.

Nicole Perna, publicist for Brown, issued a statement Saturday night calling the woman's charges "unequivocally untrue."

AP
In this Friday, Dec. 18, 2015 file photo, Chris Brown performs at the Hollywood Palladium in Los Angeles.

The woman "was escorted out of the private after party at the Palms Casino Resort for being disruptive and out of control," Perna said. "Once she was in the hallway, while waiting for Chris Brown's security to bring out her phone, she had a total meltdown -- throwing her purse to the ground and claiming that she 'could buy everyone in the hotel' -- as witnessed by numerous people waiting to get into the party. The Palms Casino Resort security also saw her wild behavior via hotel security cameras and immediately came up to the hallway to escort her out of the hotel."

"Her claim that she had her phone in her possession inside the after party and was able to take a photo causing an altercation with Chris Brown is a complete fabrication," Perna said.

Bill Cosby tweets 'Thank You' to friends, family

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby has tweeted a brief message to fans following his arrest on a sexual assault charge.

The message says, "Friends and fans, Thank You." It was sent Thursday from Cosby's Twitter account.

The 78-year-old comedian was charged this week with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman in 2004 inside his home near Philadelphia. It's the first criminal case brought against Cosby out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as America's Dad.

Cosby's attorney has said the charge is unjustified and predicted her client will be exonerated.

Cosby is free on $1 million bail pending trial.

Alec Baldwin, Richard Linklater join polar bear plunges

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Actor Alec Baldwin and director Richard Linklater have braved the chilly waters off New York's Long Island at separate polar bear plunges on New Year's Day.

Newsday reports that Baldwin dived into the Atlantic Ocean on Friday to benefit an East Hampton rehabilitation facility. Linklater took part in a nearby plunge benefiting the East Hampton Food Pantry.

Baldwin is a Long Island native and a regular at glitzy charity events on the island's East End.

The Texas-based Linklater was vacationing in the area and decided to join the plunge. He said it was "really cool, so many people coming out for a good reason."

Baldwin has starred in numerous films as well as the NBC show "30 Rock."

Linklater's films include "Dazed and Confused," ''School of Rock" and "Boyhood."

Husband who's aiding ex-lover appears to be helping himself

DEAR ABBY: My husband went to Florida three months ago to care for an ailing former lover. He told me she will be leaving him a sizable inheritance and he needs to protect her from "vultures." I admit I am suspicious of his motives. I think there may be more going on than what he's telling me, but he has been painting a pretty picture of how rosy our future will be with her gift.

He has now suggested that we get a temporary divorce so he can marry her in order to get her entire estate! He claims it will be nothing more than a business arrangement. His suggestion left me flabbergasted. Even though our marriage has been rocky at times, I have never seen this side of him. I don't know whether to believe him and be simply disappointed at his callous behavior, or not believe him and conclude that he really wants a divorce so he can marry her. Any thoughts?

HEARTSICK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR HEARTSICK: Your husband appears to still be carrying a torch for his old flame. Are you sure she is really sick? If it's the truth, then the "vulture" I see on the horizon may be him.

I hope you appreciate how extremely manipulative your husband appears to be. Because of it, and since he has spoken the "D" word, consult a lawyer to ensure that your interests will be protected regardless of his motives. I'm saying that in case the woman turns out to be healthier than both of you.

DEAR ABBY: How do you help someone who doesn't want to be helped? My adult son, "Greg," who lives with me, is slowly drinking himself to death. He was laid off two years ago, and I know he is depressed and has given up on life.

It has reached the point where he is showing signs of cirrhosis, but he refuses to do anything about it. The last time he saw a doctor was three years ago. The doctor said Greg's liver functions were not normal and he needed to stop drinking. I've tried to make my son listen to reason, to no avail.

My sister tells me if I don't get Greg some help, I could be charged with adult neglect. But I don't know how to fix this. The outcome is increasingly bleak. What can I do?

MOM WITH A PROBLEM

DEAR MOM: If the inability to convince a substance-addicted adult relative to get help were against the law, there wouldn't be enough prisons to hold all the "offenders."

As much as you love your son, you can't "fix" his alcohol addiction. You should, however, find the nearest Al-Anon group and attend some meetings. And while you are at it, bring your sister with you because she has a lot to learn. Chief among the lessons is that someone else's drinking is not another person's fault or responsibility to control. I am sorry for your pain, because I'm sure it is considerable.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an attorney. Recently at a party, an acquaintance was talking about some litigation his company is involved in. I commented briefly on something he said, and he responded, "We take advice from attorneys we PAY," and walked away. Should I feel insulted, or should I have stayed out of the conversation to begin with?

HURT FEELINGS IN FLORIDA

DEAR HURT: Some people think that anything that's offered for free is without value, and it appears the man you encountered is one of them. Because this is his world view, try not to take it personally. Your motives were generous. I see no reason to muzzle yourself in the future if you think you have something helpful to say.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

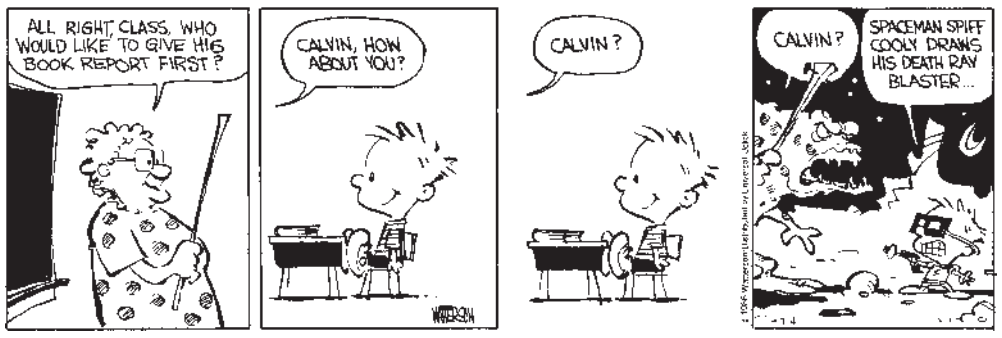
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALL RIGHT, CLASS. WHO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HIS BOOK REPORT FIRST?
CALVIN, HOW ABOUT YOU?
CALVIN?
CALVIN?
SPACEMAN SPIFF COOLY DRAWS HIS DEATH RAY BLASTER...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

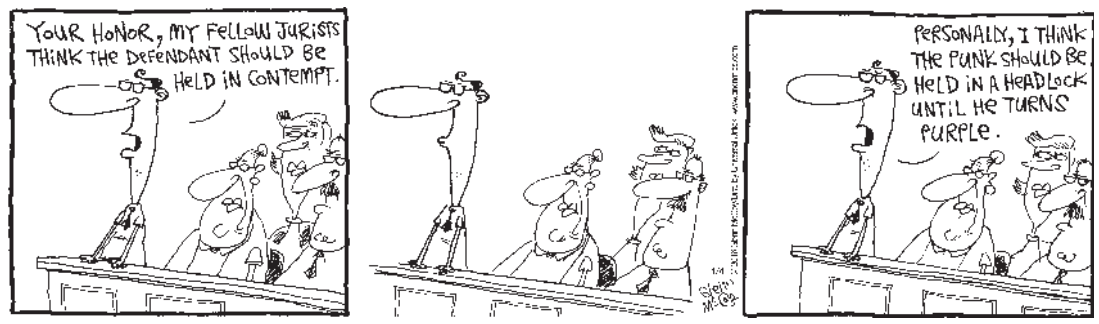
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT HAPPENED?
OW OW OW!
I WAS SHOVELING THE SNOW OFF THE SIDEWALK AND I SLIPPED! OOH. OW!
I CAME DOWN ON MY FUNNY BONE, BUT IT WASN'T FUNNY!
NO, I SAW IT. IT WAS PRETTY FUNNY.
KATY!
IT'S NOT HER FAULT. I RAISED HER ON THE THREE STOOGES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOUR HONOR, MY FELLOW JURISTS THINK THE DEFENDANT SHOULD BE HELD IN CONTEMPT.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THE PUNK SHOULD BE HELD IN A HEADLOCK UNTIL HE TURNS PURPLE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 It wasn't built in a day
5 Pen brand
8 Missing
12 Inventors' cries
13 Tooth doc's org.
14 Woeful word
15 Dairy product
16 Tolstoy's Anna
18 Genteel
20 Dam builder
21 Red planet
23 Tell whoppers
24 Wheat for pasta
28 Tiny earring
31 Acting coach Hagen
32 Trotsky and Uris
34 Three (Pref.)
35 Cleo's lover
37 Short Mozart composition
39 42-Across go-with
41 Ripped
42 Tea party biscuits
45 Thrilling feeling
49 North or South state
51 Playpen pile
52 — impasse (stuck)
53 Land unit
54 Angelic instrument
55 May honorees
56 Have debts
57 Legal order

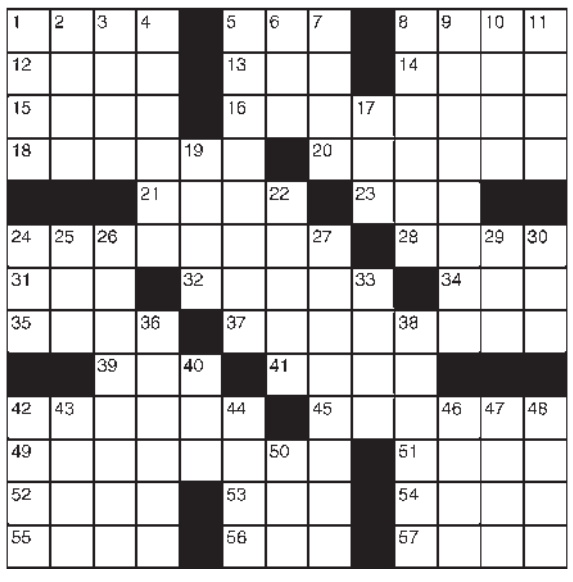
DOWN

1 Wheelchair access
2 Wheeling's river
3 Teen hangout
4 Umiak user
5 Sweet spots?
6 "Rhoda" mom
7 Atkins diet no-no
8 Oahu verandas
9 Old typewriter brand
10 With it
11 Winter Palace ruler
17 Sea wriggler
19 Like NBA players
22 Elitist
24 Total (up)
25 Greek vowel
26 Mint family herb
27 Provide references, as in a thesis
29 Large coffee pot
30 24 hours, in Spain
33 Agra dress
36 Church laws
38 Tithing fractions
40 Zany Brooks
42 Bamboozle
43 "Elder" Roman
44 Missile shelter
46 Capricorn
47 Vega's constellation
48 Observe
50 "At once!"

Solution time: 26 mins.

O	K	H	A	■	B	L	U	R	■	I	U	S
H	O	U	R	■	R	O	S	E	■	W	I	T
O	N	E	A	C	R	O	S	S	■	O	V	A
H	A	R	B	O	R	■	■	O	F	F	E	R
■	■	■	I	T	■	■	N	D	I	A	■	■
J	A	⁻	A	■	A	M	C	■	E	C	O	N
A	A	H	■	■	C	P	R	■	■	E	N	A
M	A	R	V	■	H	E	M	■	D	D	A	Y
■	■	■	E	A	S	E	L	■	P	A	■	■
G	R	E	C	O	■	■	A	S	I	O	P	F
P	A	W	■	F	O	U	R	A	L	A	R	M
A	S	A	■	A	L	T	I	■	A	H	O	T
S	H	Y	■	H	E	E	D	■	S	J	M	S

Friday's answer 1 - 4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dot-Marie Jones, 52; Dave Foley, 53; Michael Stipe, 56; Patty Loveless, 59.

Happy Birthday: Live, learn and make strategic moves. Exciting opportunities are within reach if you don't let little annoyances get to you. Handle any setbacks with diplomacy, but take care of business shrewdly so that you don't miss a beat. Be the driving force instead of the obedient onlooker. Stand tall and push your way to the top. Your numbers are 6, 10, 13, 24, 31, 36, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Live in the moment. Have the confidence to negotiate what you want. Forward thinking will lead to an opportunity that is right for you. Romance and personal progress are on the rise. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll learn a lot by observing your peers. Take the knowledge you pick up and put your own unique spin on things. You can get ahead by using diplomacy and being a team player. Say little, but do a lot. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let uncertainty take over. If there is something you don't understand, ask questions until you learn what's required of you. Use your intelligence and show everyone how disciplined you can be. Don't let your personal life interfere with work. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Go where the action is. Take part in activities that will allow you to show off your skills, knowledge and expertise. Avoid joint financial ventures. It's best to count on yourself and no one else. Your intuition won't let you down. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put some effort into improving your skills, appearance or your relationships. The changes you make will show others that you are preparing for any tasks that come your way. Put aside time for romance and making personal plans with the people you love. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do your best to take part in community events, or get involved in other activities that will benefit you professionally. Don't let problems at home get you down. A misunderstanding is at the root of an issue you are having with someone. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make vacation plans or set up business trips. Talk with someone who can influence your future and your standard of living. Look for ways to satisfy your needs as well as those of the people you are dealing with. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do what needs to be done, and don't wait for someone else to take over. Don't get too caught up over issues with people from your past. Doing things differently should be your calling card. Don't back down or conform to others' standards. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take one step at a time. You'll face opposition and disillusionment when dealing with peers, friends and relatives. Listen carefully, but don't reveal your opinions to others. Focus on self-improvement, development and personal gain. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get your facts straight before taking part in a conversation. There are deals to be made and opportunities to take advantage of, but first try to figure out who you are dealing with. Let your intuition guide you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Charm, goodwill and dedication will help you achieve your goals. Check out the rules of any competition before you begin. Romance and making personal plans for the future will improve your domestic life. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get involved in anything that may jeopardize your health or well-being. Focus on contracts, legal matters and your personal finances, and you will find a way to get positive results. Opportunities are present, but emotional issues will cloud your vision. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are driven, hardworking and relentless. You are playful and aggressive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		9						8
	3			2	6		4	
			5		9			6
	8	3		7		4		
	2		3		8		1	
		7		9		8	2	
1			7		5			
	5		2	8			9	
6						1		2

Difficulty Level ★ 1/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Thursday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	1	7	6	2	4	5	9
9	4	6	5	3	1	7	8	2
7	2	5	9	4	8	6	1	3
2	3	8	1	7	4	9	6	5
1	9	4	8	5	6	2	3	7
6	5	7	3	2	9	8	4	1
8	1	2	4	9	5	3	7	6
4	6	3	2	1	7	5	9	8
5	7	9	6	8	3	1	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

REMEMBERING Y2K Solution: 10 letters

S	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	E	M	I	L	L	E	N
Y	E	F	A	I	L	U	R	E	S	K	C	O	L	C
S	R	E	A	C	L	A	N	I	F	C	S	N	S	O
T	L	R	O	L	C	E	U	L	C	N	O	E	N	M
E	S	V	O	S	E	N	I	A	O	I	V	D	R	P
M	A	R	T	W	U	R	L	I	T	E	A	E	E	U
H	C	T	I	L	G	E	T	A	S	T	M	R	C	T
R	Y	C	M	F	N	A	T	R	E	S	E	O	N	E
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC.,	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458**
Plaintiff,	:	
-v-	:	
DONALD C. CAMACHO, Defendant.	:	

SEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of the original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Office of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, January 15, 2016.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. A valid police clearance no more than six (6) months old is required with each application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.

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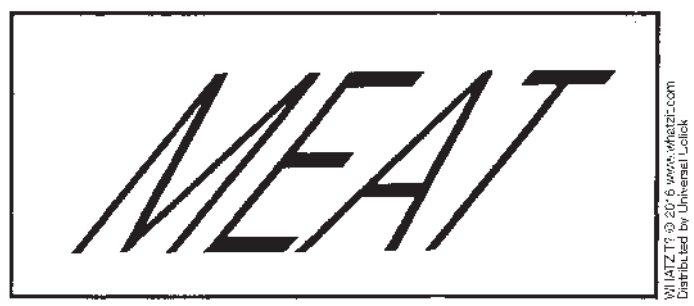

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Warriors hold off Nuggets; Faried taken off on stretcher

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—With reigning MVP Stephen Curry hurt again after re-injuring his left leg, the Golden State Warriors barely kept their long home winning streak going.

Klay Thompson made a driving finger roll with 15.6 seconds left in overtime and the short-handed defending champions held off the Denver Nuggets 111-108 on Saturday night.

Draymond Green knocked down his first four 3-point tries in the opening 3 1/2 minutes on the way to 29 points, 17 rebounds and 14 assists for his NBA-leading sixth triple-double.

"That's the MVP of the league, and we need him," Green said of Curry. "That's no secret, but guys stepped up and made plays."

About 10 minutes after the game ended, Denver forward Kenneth Faried was in a neck brace and strapped to a stretcher as he was wheeled off the court.

Faried, who took an elbow to the back of the neck while jostling for a rebound late in overtime, raised his arm for a thumbs-up to fans who stuck around.

"Obviously, any time you're dealing with a neck or back, it's scary," Nuggets guard Jameer Nelson said. "I didn't see the play. We were playing. There are no dirty guys out there. Nobody did anything intentional. Hopefully he's good."

The Nuggets said Faried was taken to the hospital for precautionary reasons while the team flew home to prepare for a game Sunday against Portland. A team spokesman said general manager Tim Connelly accompanied Faried to the hospital.

"You don't want to see that with anybody, with any player in this league," Denver forward Danilo Gallinari said.

Faried had 15 points and 12 rebounds in nearly 29 minutes for the Nuggets, who lost their fifth straight.

Curry came back following a two-game absence because of a bruised lower left leg but hurt it again in the same place when he got kicked in the leg playing defense. He didn't play the entire second half.

The star point guard finished with five points, four assists and two steals in 14-plus minutes. He will be re-evaluated Sunday to determine his status for Monday night's home game against Charlotte.

"I just re-injured the same thing, so I'll be all right," Curry said. "I know exactly what it is. Whenever you hurt something and you try to play through a little bit of discomfort and just get out there, it's usually a magnet for something to happen."

Will Barton, whose two shots late in regulation forced the extra period, missed an off-balance attempt following Thompson's go-ahead basket. Thompson then made one of two free throws before Barton's desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer hit the rim.

AP

Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried is taken off the court in a stretcher after an injury at the end of an NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Barton dunked with 34.5 seconds left in the fourth quarter and with 0.9 on the clock as the Nuggets rallied to force OT.

The Warriors had just seven players available for overtime. They blew a 26-point lead before hanging on for their 34th straight regular-season win at Oracle Arena, including a franchise-best start of 16-0 this season.

Golden State (31-2) beat Denver for the fourth straight time overall and at Oracle Arena.

Thompson scored 26 points on 11-for-27 shooting. Green's 18 first-quarter points were a career best for a single period.

Gallinari returned to the Denver lineup and scored 24 points after sitting out six games with a sprained left ankle.

Kings 142, Suns 119

In Sacramento, Calif., Kings coach George Karl moved into a tie for fifth on the NBA wins list with 1,155 when DeMarcus Cousins had 32 points and nine rebounds to lead Sacramento over Phoenix, which lost its eighth in a row.

Karl matched Phil Jackson with the milestone victory. The 63-year-old Karl is 1,155-795 in 27 seasons.

Brandon Knight had 23 points and Devin Booker scored 21 for the Suns, who have lost 10 of 11.

Darren Collison had 21 points and six assists, and Marco Belinelli scored 19 points for the Kings. Rudy Gay added 16 points and Rajon Rondo had 15 points and 15 assists. The Kings set a season high for points and shot 61.6 percent in snapping a three-game skid.

Spurs 121, Rockets 103

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points, Kawhi Leonard added 22 and the Spurs made a season-high 13 3-pointers in avenging an earlier loss to the Rockets.

Tim Duncan was held scoreless for the first time in his 19-year career, but San Antonio extended its franchise-record home start with its 20th straight victory.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 11 rebounds, and James Harden had 17 points on 6-for-10 shooting for Houston.

Spurs guard Danny Green finished with 18 points on a season-high six 3-pointers.

Cavaliers 104, Magic 79

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 29 points as the Cavaliers beat the Magic for a 13th straight game.

The Cavaliers' lead reached 31 points in the third quarter of their third win over the Magic this season—and it wasn't even the most lopsided matchup. On Dec. 11, Cleveland led by as many as 40 in a 111-76 rout.

James was 11 of 18 from the field with five rebounds and three assists in 29 minutes. Kyrie Irving, playing his fifth game since returning from a broken left kneecap, scored 13 points while Kevin Love added 10 points and 13 rebounds.

Orlando's starters were held to 20 points. Aaron Gordon scored a team-high 11.

Thunder 109, Hornets 90

In Charlotte, N.C., Kevin Durant had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and Oklahoma City pulled away in the second half to beat Charlotte.

Russell Westbrook added 16 points for the Thunder, who put four other players in double figures while winning their fourth straight game. Oklahoma City has won 10 in a row against Charlotte dating to the 2010-11 season.

Kemba Walker had 32 points for the Hornets, who scored nine unanswered points to pull to 66-64 with 9:45 remaining in the third. But the Thunder responded with a 12-2 spurt to push their lead back to double digits.

Clippers 130, 76ers 99

In Los Angeles, DeAndre Jordan led six players in double figures with 22 points and 13 rebounds, and Los Angeles defeated Philadelphia for its season-high sixth straight victory.

Chris Paul added 15 points and 14 assists while setting up Jordan for some highlight-reel dunks that excited the sellout crowd against an opponent with the NBA's worst record. In all, Jordan had a season-high nine dunks.

Rookie big man Jahlil Okafor scored 23 points off the bench for the 76ers, who fell to 2-21 on the road and 3-33 overall while giving up a season high in points.

Nets 100, Celtics 97

In Boston, Brook Lopez scored a season-high 30 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead Brooklyn over Boston.

Joe Johnson added 20 points, Thaddeus Young scored 16 with 10 rebounds, and Bojan Bogdanovic had 13 points for the Nets, who won for the third time in 11 games.

Isaiah Thomas had 24 points and Jae Crowder scored 16 for Boston. The Celtics dropped their second straight after a season-high four-game winning streak.

Nets guard Jarrett Jack left the game after crumbling to the court and grabbing his right knee late in the third quarter. The team said it was a sprain.

Boston tied it with a 12-2 run to open the fourth quarter, but Lopez had a three-point play and a pair of baskets, putting the Nets ahead 92-85 with 5:34 left.

Bucks 95, Timberwolves 85

In Minneapolis, Greg Monroe had 19 points and 10 rebounds to help Milwaukee overcome O.J. Mayo's wild ejection in a victory over Minnesota.

John Henson scored 15 points for the Bucks, and Khris Middleton added 13. An enraged Mayo was forcibly removed from the court by coaches and security staff after he picked up two technical fouls in the first quarter.

Ricky Rubio had 14 points, seven assists and six rebounds for the Timberwolves, who led 22-5 in the first quarter. Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points on 7-for-17 shooting.

The Bucks missed their first 11 shots, trailed by 17 only 9 minutes in and didn't make a field goal until 3:18 remained in the first quarter, the longest drought to start a game since the New Orleans Hornets went 9:18 against Orlando in 2006.

Milwaukee opened the fourth period with an 11-0 surge to take an 83-70 lead and never looked back.

Pelicans 105, Mavericks 98

In Dallas, Anthony Davis had 31 points and 14 rebounds, and New Orleans ended a six-game losing streak in Dallas.

Ryan Anderson hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer in the fourth quarter and the Pelicans went on to their fourth road win this season. They won at Dallas for just the third time in 25 games in franchise history.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 24 points but was 8 of 21 from the field on the second night of a back-to-back—both losses since Dallas handed Golden State its second defeat of the season, with Stephen Curry sidelined by a leg injury.

New Orleans guard Norris Cole had 16 points and a career-high 12 rebounds.

Pacers 94, Pistons 82

In Indianapolis, Paul George scored 21 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Pacers to over the Pistons.

At the final buzzer, Marcus Morris shoved George twice, sparking a minor scuffle.

George Hill had 18 points and Monta Ellis added 14 for the Pacers (19-14), who snapped a two game skid.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Ersan Ilyasova and Reggie Jackson each scored 12 points for the Pistons (18-16), who have lost four of five games.

Jazz 92, Grizzlies 87, OT

In Salt Lake City, Rodney Hood scored a career-high 32 points and Utah fought off a stingy Memphis team to win in overtime.

The Jazz won consecutive games for the sixth time this season, but have yet to win three straight.

Hood knocked down a pair of free throws to put Utah ahead 89-87 with 29.1 seconds left in overtime. He scored 10 points in the first quarter and then carried the Jazz offense late with 17 in the fourth period and overtime combined.

Gordon Hayward added 14 points and Jeff Withey had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Marc Gasol scored 20 for Memphis to go with seven rebounds and four assists. But he missed a wide-open jumper from the elbow that would have won the game in regulation.

Playoff teams nearly set, but matchups still unsettled

By TIM BOOTH
AP SPORTS WRITER

Even though they've had a playoff berth clinched for two weeks, no team goes into the final week of the regular season with more uncertainty than the Seattle Seahawks with three potential opponents for the opening weekend.

That's fine by them. They already know what lies ahead in the postseason.

"I don't really care. Regardless it's going to be somewhere cold and it's going to be on the road," Seattle defensive end Cliff Avril said.

Seattle's status is one of the few unknowns going into the final day. Home-field advantage has yet to be clinched in both conferences. The NFC North is up for grabs with Green Bay hosting Minnesota. Rex Ryan and Buffalo could knock the New York Jets out of the playoffs, a result the Steelers are hoping for to sneak in.

And the AFC South could go the way of Indianapolis. All the Colts need is a win with a fourth-string quarterback, a Houston loss and just eight other results to go their way.

Here's a look at the breakdowns in each conference:

AFC

BREAK TIME: New England is already assured of having the first weekend off. The Patriots can wrap up home field advantage with a win over Miami or a Denver loss to San Diego. Denver needs just a win over the Chargers to get a bye, while Cincinnati needs a win over the Ravens and a Broncos loss to earn a No. 2 seed.

WILD WILD CARD: Pittsburgh's flop in Week 16 losing to Baltimore left the Steelers needing some help. The Jets are in with a win in Buffalo, but a loss and the Steelers can swoop in and claim the No. 6 seed with a victory over the Browns.

DON'T FORGET US: Anyone talking at all about Kansas City? The Chiefs have won nine straight and still have an outside shot of winning the AFC West. Kansas City must beat Oakland and have the Broncos lose to the Chargers. While that would get Kansas City the division title, it won't get them a first-round bye.

SOUTH BY DEFAULT: OK. Can the Texans simply just win? That is the cleanest, easiest route to figuring out the AFC South champion. Houston wins and it hosts the No. 5 seed in the wild card round. But if the Texans lose and Indianapolis can beat Tennessee then it gets really messy. The Colts would then need Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Denver and Miami to win, and Oakland and Pittsburgh to win or tie—but both not tie—to edge out the Texans on strength of schedule tiebreaker.

AP
Seattle Seahawks' Tyler Lockett (16) is congratulated by Justin Britt after Lockett's touchdown reception against the Cleveland Browns in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, in Seattle.

NFC

REST TIME: Carolina and Arizona have already earned byes. But the Panthers loss last week against Atlanta left open the chance of Arizona earning home-field advantage. The Cardinals need to beat Seattle and have the Panthers lose to Tampa Bay and the path to the Super Bowl would go through Glendale.

NFC FROZEN: The NFC North will be decided late on Sunday night when the temperatures in Green Bay are expected to dip into the teens for the Packers and Vikings. The winner gets the No. 3 seed in the conference. The loser will be a wild card and face a road-heavy slate to get through the postseason.

After starting 6-0 the Packers are 4-5 down the stretch, including last week's 38-8 drubbing by Arizona. But Green Bay was on a three-game losing streak when it routed the Vikings 30-13 in Minnesota in Week 11.

FILING A FLIGHT PLAN: Seattle has the most uncertainty of where it's headed going into the final day with the chance of ending up in Minnesota, Green Bay or Washington. The Seahawks were in line for the No. 5 seed before stumbling last week at home against St. Louis. Beating Arizona won't guarantee Seattle the No. 5 seed because if Minnesota beats Green Bay, the Packers have the tiebreaker over the Seahawks. No matter the Seahawks outcome in Arizona, they'll likely be back in Seattle late Sunday night before knowing where they're headed to open the playoffs.

Dolphins GM Dennis Hickey parts with team after 2 years

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Dolphins didn't wait for the end of the season to begin their latest organizational shake-up.

The departure of general manager Dennis Hickey after two years in Miami was announced Saturday on the eve of the season finale against New England. The move is part of an anticipated restructuring that will include a coaching search.

The Dolphins went 8-8 last year and are 5-10 this season, in part because of unproductive draft choices and other unsuccessful personnel moves during Hickey's tenure.

In statements released by the team, Hickey and executive vice president of football operations Mike Tannenbaum both said the decision for the GM to leave was mutual.

"Over the past week, I have had a number of conversations with the Dolphins organization about my role in the team," Hickey said. "Ultimately the Dolphins and I agreed that it would be best if we parted ways."

Said Tannenbaum: "We talked about a number of different possibilities, but at the end we reached this agreement."

The move wasn't a surprise, and other changes are coming. Tannenbaum has been with Miami for only one year and will be retained, but the Dolphins are likely to hire their ninth head coach since 2004.

Interim coach Dan Campbell will be interviewed but isn't expected to return in 2016.

Director of college scouting Chris Grier, who has been with the Dolphins for 16 seasons, is the leading candidate to succeed Hickey. Tannenbaum is likely to take on a more active role in personnel decisions.

Hickey's role diminished when Tannenbaum was hired a year ago. Hickey's draft choices in 2014 included tackle Ja'Wuan James and receiver Jarvis Landry, both starters, but none of the 2015 picks made major impacts as rookies.

There have also been a slew of unproductive free agent signings the past two years, and Tannenbaum took the lead in signing free agent defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh to a $114 million deal.

The Dolphins thought they were poised to contend for the playoffs this year, but they started poorly, and the firing of coach Joe Philbin after four games failed to spark a turnaround.

Miami hasn't had a winning season since 2008 and hasn't won a playoff game since 2000.

Titans, Browns lead reluctant race to top 2016 draft pick

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—With the teams trying to clamp down the final playoff spots Sunday, the Tennessee Titans and Cleveland Browns find themselves at the other end of the NFL spectrum.

They lead the procession tumbling toward next year's No. 1 draft pick.

The Titans and Browns are 3-12, and chances are one of them will wind up with the No. 1 pick overall in the 2016 NFL Draft. In the reluctant race to the bottom of the standings, they have a slight edge over San Diego, Dallas and San Francisco—all tied at 4-11.

That leaves some Titans and Browns fans in the peculiar position of rooting for a loss Sunday that would put their team in line for the top pick.

Players and coaches have been saying it's about now, not next year.

"Obviously, you'd like to walk away a winner and feel good about yourself for all the hard work," Titans interim coach Mike Mularkey said.

The Browns beat Tennessee 28-14 in Week 2, but head-to-head isn't the tiebreaker used to determine draft order. Instead, opponents' strength of schedule is key with the edge given to the team playing weaker competition. Playing in the AFC South where only Houston has as many as eight wins would give the Titans that tiebreaker if both teams lose Sunday.

Victories by Cleveland and Tennessee will certainly make things more complicated as the strength of schedule tiebreaker will be affected by nearly every game Sunday.

Both teams will be without their Heisman Trophy winning quarterbacks because of injuries. Marcus Mariota will miss his second straight game with a sprained right knee, giving Zach Mettenberger the start Sunday in Indianapolis (7-8). Mettenberger is winless in nine career starts, while the Titans haven't won in Indianapolis since 2007.

Johnny Manziel is out with a concussion, so Austin Davis will start for the Browns against Pittsburgh (9-6). Cleveland has beaten the Steelers only six times since 1999.

When a team is 3-12, there are a lot of holes to fill. Here are some of the needs the Titans and Browns have entering the 2016 draft:

BROWNS

With coach Mike Pettine's future in doubt, the Browns go in a number of directions with the No. 1 or No. 2 overall pick. Ohio State defensive end Joey Bosa, with his comparisons to J.J. Watt, would seem to fit into any defensive system. Bosa offers the added bonus of a built-in fan base with his Buckeye backers.

Manziel improved enough on the field to provide some hope, but he remains a headache off the field. If the Browns decide to add Manziel to list of former first-round QBs who didn't work out—see Brady Quinn and Brandon Weeden—they could be interested in making either Paxton Lynch of Memphis or Cal's Jared Goff their fourth quarterback drafted in the first round since 2007.

If the Browns keep Manziel, they have enough needs that trading for extra picks could help. Then they could only hope Dallas wants insurance for Tony Romo or another team refuses to wait for a quarterback. Depending on how far down the Browns traded, wide receiver Laquon Treadwell of Mississippi or linebackers like Notre Dame's Jaylon Smith or Louisville's James Burgess could be options.

LAST NO. 1 PICK:

2000. Cleveland chose defensive end Courtney Brown.

TITANS

Mariota has filled Tennessee's need at quarterback. Now the Titans still need to fix an offensive line that couldn't keep him healthy despite drafting linemen with their first-round pick two of the past three years. That makes Laremy Tunsil of Mississippi their best option if they wind up at No. 1.

Tennessee also has enough holes that a trade would be an appealing option, and any deal netting two first-round picks would be ideal. The Titans would love to add a player like Nashville native and Florida State cornerback Jalen Ramsey to bolster their secondary. Any deal that also netted Treadwell as the second part of that combo, giving Mariota another target, would be an attractive scenario. Running back also is a big need.

LAST NO. 1 PICK:

1978. The then-Houston Oilers traded with Tampa Bay for the right to draft running back Earl Campbell.

Islander sets up finals date vs MJD

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Islander arranged a title showdown against MJD Enterprises for the east division crown after ousting Maplas, 89-74, in last Tuesday's playoff match in the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League at the San Antonio court.

Islander took full control of its semis match against Maplas in the second half to notch the second and last finals berth in the division, while Maplas was booted out of the competition due to its free throw woes.

Ahead by only 8 at the break, 39-31, Islander made it a double-figure lead by the end of the third after getting contributions from every player it fielded in the game. Four Islander players scored at least 4 points each in the third canto, while three more also hit the board to give their team a baker's dozen lead, 62-49,

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Islander's Prince Factor and Kelvin Fitial hound Maplas' Rommel Usi, while Alex Lauron stays close for more help defense during the fourth quarter of the semis game in the east division of the San Antonio caging last Tuesday night at the San Antonio court.

Islander's advantage ballooned to as much as 18 early in the fourth quarter, 72-54, forcing Maplas to start making a move to overhaul the big deficit. Maplas, which came off an upset win against the Sonics in the quarterfinals, became aggressive on offense and in the process drew a lot of fouls from Islander.

Three Islander players went on to get disqualified from the game due to five fouls and Maplas made repeated trips to the foul line. However, Maplas muffed one free throw after another, allowing Islander to keep its safe distance.

No official free throw tally was listed on the score sheets, but league volunteers noted that Maplas missed at least 30 charities with majority of them committed in the fourth quarter.

Ironically, a free throw conversion by Jun Rueda off an and-1 play finally trimmed Islander's lead to single digit, 72-8, with 1:58 left on the clock.

However, that was the closest that Maplas could get, as Kelvin Fitial secured the victory in the ensuing play with a layup and two charities. Maplas went on to keep the double-digit winning margin after Diwon Kwon and Dexter Tenorio added two more field goals, while the losing squad managed to score only 2 points off his 2-for-4 shot from the foul line.

Fitial paced Islander with his 28 points, while Prince Factor and Alex Lauron chipped in 18 and 13, respectively. Kwon also finished in twin digits with his 11 markers. Rueda registered 30 points for Maplas, which got 22 from Kennedy Viray, while Richard Villaueva had a quiet 11 markers.

Meanwhile, the date for the Islander-MJD title match has yet to be announced as the league took a holiday break last weekend.

Islander 89 – Fitial 28, Factor 18, Lauron 13, Kwon 11, Manibusan 7, Malonzo 6, Tenorio 4, Diaz 2.

Maplas 74 – Rueda 30, Viray 22, Villanueva 11, Mungcal 5, Jumaquio 2, Reyes 2, Usi 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 39-31, 62-49, 89-74.

NMIVA holds final event of 2015

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ben Dasalla, Angie Mister, and Tyler Willsey are all smiles after winning last week's three-person beach volleyball tournament.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association held its final event of 2015 last week with a three-person beach volleyball tournament.

Close to 10 teams joined the event held at the sand courts of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Even a brief downpour didn't derail the victory of the trio of Tyler Willsey, Angie Mister, and Ben Dasalla as they emerged as the top team after the elimination and seeding rounds.

They defeated the team of Dale Roberts, Steve Beyer, and CNMI U19 girls' volleyball team member Emily Jones in the finals.

Sean E. Frink, Tyce Mister, and Aaron Frink finished third.

NMIVA also thanked Phalai Frink and Russ Quinn for organizing the event, along with volunteers Emily Frink, Amie McRoberts, Sharon Cabrera, Jinju Thompson, and Ian Mayne.

NMIVA's next event is another grass volleyball tournament on Jan. 16, which is similar to the two-person reverse co-ed event they held last year at the Navy Hill court.

NMIVA will also help prepare Saipan in hosting the 24th edition of the Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival this year. ***(Jon Perez)***

SLLBI wants managers, coaches input

The Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. would like to get the thoughts of all managers and coaches who will be fielding teams in the upcoming 2016 season.

The 2016 season's opening is facing delay as the SLBBI is still waiting for the start of the repairs of both the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan ballfields.

The Saipan Little League, the CNMI's longest-running youth baseball program, has been using both fields for their games.

SLBBI president A.J. Murig, in an earlier email, said he would schedule a meeting for the preparation being done for the coming season and to get their input on the local ground rules.

"[The board] encourage the managers and coaches to let us know of their participation in this season so that sample schedules can be drafted."

The draft schedule would help the SLLBI in knowing when the season would end in order to give the All-Star teams—Majors, Junior, Senior, and Big League—enough time to prepare for their respective district of regional tournaments.

"[For us] to see if the time we have and the schedule weekends are enough or if we will be increasing the weekend games each Saturday and Sunday instead of just three," Murig said.

The Big League will be the division that will be affected from the change of schedule since they usually play at night. But with the Tan Ko field's lights were damaged, no night games could be held.

One scenario that the SLBBI is looking at is holding one game each in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions every Saturdays and Sundays. ***(Jon Perez)***

TREKKERS

From Page 28

anne Hall. The champion squad was composed of MP United and Paire FC players and had MPU's Sunjoon Tenorio and Chris Aninzo as coaches.

Betde was bannered by Tan Holdings FC players with John Ezekiel Canape, Anthony Bergancia, Raina Avelino, Salvatorre Gotti Jr., and Angelo Pulido completing the squad.

Betde and Tekkers arranged their title showdown by occupying the Top 2 spots in the team standings in the elimination round. Actually, they had similar 2-0-1 win-draw-loss records, but Betde ended up at first place with its more goals, 9-5.

Kanoa Ali'i and the Blue Devils were the two other teams entered in the division with the former earning a 1-1-1 mark against the latter's 0-1-2. They dueled in the consolation game yesterday with the Blue Devils pulling off an upset against Kanoa, 3-0.

Reginald Pascual lifted the Blue Devils to the third place finish after recording two goals, while Aundre Camacho contributed one.

Meanwhile, Fake Madrid and Astig Futsal collided in the co-ed U15 finals yesterday and results of the title match will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition.

RUBBER

From Page 28

in the game to notch the eighth and last playoff seat. Mariana Resort will be paired against top-ranked Tan Holdings in the first round of the playoffs, while TDI is taking another vacation after having the similar misfortune in the inaugural edition of the league.

Ryan Manglona and Michael Fidelino brought Mariana Resort to the next round after combining for more than half of the team's total points. Manglona scored 18 points, while Fidelino chipped in 14, including two charities that foiled TDI's comeback bid.

TDI trailed by as much as 10 in the fourth frame, 51-41, but patiently worked its way back into the match and sliced the deficit to 3, 54-57, down to the last 34.5 seconds of the game. TDI had a chance to move close after another botched Mariana Resort's offensive set and Arwin Reyes was fouled on his way to the basket. However, Reyes muffed both charities, allowing Mariana Resort to keep the 3-point cushion.

Fidelino made it a 4-point lead off a split free throw on the other end, while TDI wasted another opportunity to pull the rug under Mariana Resort when Raymond Velasco's layup rattled off the rim. After that crucial miss, Mariana Resort got the rebound and Fidelino was fouled anew. He knocked in his second free throw for the insurance, while TDI hit the last basket of the game off Velasco's banked shot with 3 seconds left on the clock. Mariana Resort melted the clock after the inbound play to secure the win and eliminate TDI.

Velasco tallied 26 points in TDI's farewell match, while Henry Manipon chipped in 10.

Meanwhile, the other pairings in the first round of the playoffs are as follows: No. 2 MBI/KFC vs No. 7 CUC; No. 3 Joeten vs No. 6 Docomo; and No. 4 Saipan Ice vs No. 5 McDonald's. Playoff matches will be played starting tonight.

Mariana Resort 59 – Manglona 18, Fidelino 14, Francisco 10, Litulumar 8, Bansil 4, Capuli 3, Delos Reyes 2.

TDI 56 – Velasco 26, Manipon 10, A. Reyes 6, Arreza 6, Pollisco 6, Lumayag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-12, 29-28, 44-39, 59-56.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	21	13	.618	—
Boston	18	15	.545	2½
New York	15	19	.441	6
Brooklyn	10	23	.303	10½
Philadelphia	3	33	.083	19

Southeast Division

Atlanta	21	13	.618	—
Miami	19	13	.594	1
Orlando	19	15	.559	2
Charlotte	17	16	.515	3½
Washington	15	16	.484	4½

Central Division

Cleveland	22	9	.710	—
Chicago	19	12	.613	3
Indiana	19	14	.576	4
Detroit	18	16	.529	5½
Milwaukee	14	21	.400	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	29	6	.829	—
Dallas	19	15	.559	9½
Memphis	18	17	.514	11
Houston	16	19	.457	13
New Orleans	11	22	.333	17

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	24	10	.706	—
Utah	15	17	.469	8
Portland	14	21	.400	10½
Denver	12	22	.353	12
Minnesota	12	22	.353	12

Pacific Division

Golden State	31	2	.939	—
L.A. Clippers	22	13	.629	10
Sacramento	13	20	.394	18
Phoenix	12	24	.333	20½
L.A. Lakers	7	27	.206	24½

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Curry, GOL	30	301	174	916	30.5
Harden, HOU	33	272	303	936	28.4
Durant, OKC	26	237	158	692	26.6
James, CLE	29	281	154	744	25.7
Westbrook, OKC	32	287	202	818	25.6
Lillard, POR	29	243	144	712	24.6
Cousins, SAC	24	191	171	579	24.1
George, IND	31	241	171	746	24.1
Davis, NOR	28	246	150	657	23.5
Griffin, LAC	30	281	129	697	23.2
DeRozan, TOR	33	252	240	757	22.9
Anthony, NYK	31	241	150	680	21.9
Butler, CHI	30	208	181	631	21.0
Thomas, BOS	32	215	173	667	20.8
Leonard, SAN	32	246	110	664	20.8
McCollum, POR	33	262	79	683	20.7
Lowry, TOR	33	213	165	681	20.6
Wiggins, MIN	31	225	170	638	20.6
Bledsoe, PHX	31	223	138	632	20.4
Jackson, DET	32	232	133	644	20.1

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Jordan, LAC	135	188	.718
Whiteside, MIA	160	260	.615
Howard, HOU	135	223	.605
Kanter, OKC	152	264	.576
Faried, DEN	153	279	.548
Parker, SAN	173	320	.541
Towns, MIN	212	394	.538
Vucevic, ORL	235	442	.532
Young, Bro	228	435	.524
Favors, UTA	179	342	.523

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Drummond, DET	32	178	335	513	16.0
Jordan, LAC	33	118	316	434	13.2
Howard, HOU	27	98	216	314	11.6
Whiteside, MIA	31	94	246	340	11.0
Davis, NOR	28	55	250	305	10.9
Gasol, CHI	29	70	241	311	10.7
Love, CLE	30	71	249	320	10.7
Pachulia, DAL	32	115	221	336	10.5
Cousins, SAC	24	55	193	248	10.3
Thompson, CLE	30	93	203	296	9.9

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, SAC	31	348	11.2
Wall, WAS	30	293	9.8
Westbrook, OKC	32	298	9.3
Rubio, MIN	26	238	9.2
Paul, LAC	28	251	9.0
Jack, Bro	31	227	7.3
Green, GOL	31	214	6.9
Harden, HOU	33	227	6.9
Thomas, BOS	32	219	6.8
Lillard, POR	29	196	6.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic Winners

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, boys U12 doubles champions Ji Min Woo and Daniel Kang are joined by runners-up Rintaro Miyawaki and Richard Steele on the stage during the awards ceremony for the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held last month at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Girls U14 doubles champions Malika Miyawaki, left, and Conatsu Kaga, center, show their plaques, while Maria Gregoire receives the runner-up award on behalf of her teammate Asia Raulerson.

Anthony Gregoire, right, is all smiles after getting his championship plaque in the boys U12 singles, while Andrew Chung joins him on the stage.

Girls U12 runner-up Ericka Tuttle, left, poses with champion Coume Kaga.

Boys U16 singles champion Michael Ren, left, is joined on the photo by runner-up Vincent Tudela.

Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi smile after getting their runner-up plaques in the girls U16 doubles event.

Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik show their boys U12 singles championship and runner-up plaques, respectively.

CNMI coach Jeff Race, left, poses with participants in the mini tennis event.

Conatsu Kaga poses with one of the awards she won in the annual tournament.

Warriors hold off Nuggets; Faried taken off on stretcher

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Playoff teams nearly set, but matchups still unsettled

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Tekkers rules U12 futsal tourney

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tekkers players and coaches pose for a group photo after beating Betde in the co-ed U12 division finals of the Saipan Soccer School futsal tournament yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tekkers clinched the co-ed U12 division championship in the Saipan Soccer School's 2015 Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament after defeating Betde, 4-1, in yesterday's finals at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kaden Church, Rintaro Miyawaki, and Rinto Takahashi scored the goals for Tekkers in the finale between the Top 2 finishers in the round-robin elimination. Church knocked in a pair of goals, while Miyawaki and Takahashi chipped in one apiece.

Church broke the ice for Tekkers midway in the first 20 minutes of play, while Takahashi also scored in the opening half. Tekkers' second goal came from Miyawaki in the second half off a cross pass from Church. Miyawaki attacked and kicked the ball in against the defense of Betde goalie Oliver Fajardo down to the last five minutes of the match. Church closed out for the Tekkers, as he slipped past two Betde defenders in the middle and Fajardo was a step slower from saving the ball from rolling down to the right corner post.

After Church's second goal, Betde had a couple of chances to make it to the board in the second half, but Tekkers players stood their ground on defense, limiting their foe to only one goal. Betde registered its lone goal in the first half, courtesy of Taka Borja.

Tekkers' much quicker defenders prevented Borja and his Betde teammates Floyd Muna and Kohtaro Goto from adding more goals to their team's total in the second half, while Tekkers goalkeeper Richard Steele also made several saves to frustrate their opponents. Completing Tekkers' winning roster were Maaya Sato, Blake Mister, Jon VIllagomez, and Juli-

See TEKKERS on Page 26

Mariana Resort wins rubber

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mariana Resort caught the last bus to the playoff round of the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League after beating Top Development, Inc., 59-56, in a rubber match last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mariana Resort gained more cushion early in the fourth quarter and held on against TDI's rally late

See RUBBER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mariana Resort's Rico Delo Reyes pulls up for a shot against TDI's Nestor Arreza, left, and Arwin Reyes during the fourth quarter of their rubber match in the JP World caging last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

'CNMI lost a great friend of sports'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

"The CNMI lost a great leader and a great friend of sport."

This was how Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White described the sudden death of the late governor Eloy Inos, who passed away on Dec. 29 while recovering from a surgery in a hospital in Seattle, Washington.

White said the late governor was one of the most passionate supporters of sports in the CNMI that resulted in the Commonwealth winning the rights to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and NMSA finally becoming a private institution.

"We will never forget Governor Inos' full and enthusiastic support for our successful bid to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games," said White.

The CNMI first bid to host the scaled down version of the Pacific Games for 2017 but lost to Vanuatu, 13-9, in the final round of voting in New Caledonia.

Inos

In July 2014, White confirmed that the Mini Games would be coming to Saipan for the first time after the Pacific Games Council awarded the hosting rights to the CNMI during their general assembly in Papua New Guinea.

NMSA is in the process of helping prepare Saipan in hosting the quadrennial Mini Games. The Oleai Sports Complex, which would be the main hub of the Games, is due for renovation and improvement after being damaged by several typhoons last year.

An oversight committee has already been formed to oversee and help manage Saipan's preparations.

White, NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes, and secretary Rose Igitol, are the members of the committee along with PGC president Vidhya Lakhan (Council), Gov. Inos appointees businessman Jerry Tan, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada, Merced Tomokane, and Virginia Villagomez.

White said that Inos also pushed for the privatization of NMSA when he signed Public Law 18-49 on May 7, 2014.

"[Inos] was also very supportive of the new public law, which establishes NMSA as a true independent organization devoted to the development of sports in the CNMI," said White.

"And to representing the CNMI in international sporting organizations and events."

White added that NMSA joins the entire Commonwealth in mourning on Inos' passing.

"We will miss his friendship and wise counsel. NMSA and all of our members extend our deepest sympathy to his family."